

“Christ’s Ascension: A Sure Heart”

Ever feel like bailing, abandoning ship, quitting, giving up, saying, “Uncle!” or throwing in the towel?

For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brother’s were righteous. Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.

This is how we know (to know in one’s knower) what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity [shuts up his bowels of compassion; closed heart] on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure [persuade, confident] our heart before him. 1 John 3:11-19

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation, purchase of God
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood***

***This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long
This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long***

“LAY DOWN OUR LIVES”

Paradoxical teachings of Jesus

1. Die to self

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. Galatians 2:20

2. Die to hate (envy, jealousy, covetousness)

Do not be like Cain!

3. Die to a closed heart

If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity [shuts up his bowels of compassion; closed heart] on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

***If we are truly children of God, then it should show in our
Likeness to our Father, and in our love for our "siblings."***