

“David and Paul”
(Philippians 3:7-10)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Last week, we considered the source of all the affections, namely love.
 - a. Love itself is a very strong affection, perhaps the strongest.
 - b. It is the essence of true religion, since it fulfills everything the Lord commands in the Law and the prophets.
 - (i) The Lord said that one of the blessings of the New Covenant would be that the Law would be written on our hearts (Heb. 8:10).
 - (ii) What He meant was that He would give us the love for the Law that was necessary to give us the ability to keep it from the heart.
 - c. Love is also the spring from which all the affections flow.
 - (i) It is the source of all the fruits of the Spirit, “Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal. 5:22-23).
 - (ii) And the source of all the more negative affections directed towards the opposite of holiness: sin.
2. And because love is the source of all our affections, and because the affections are what move us to do what we do, it is also the source of all our spiritual activity.
 - a. Edwards already told us that if you removed all affection from the world, it would virtually come to a standstill.
 - b. In the same way, if you removed all our holy love, our work for Christ would cease, and we would become spiritually motionless.
 - c. This is why when we are filled with holy affections, we live a fervent life of holy activity.
 - (i) Consider how even the love of the world has moved many to make the greatest sacrifices.
 - (ii) Holy love towards God will also make us to do the same, and even more.

B. Preview.

1. This evening, we’re going to look at two examples of the role of the affections in the lives of David and Paul.
 - a. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words.
 - b. There is nothing like a suitable example to bring home truth.
 - c. Here were two men that were moved with very strong affection which is why they gave themselves so fully to the Lord.
2. Let’s explore for a few moments then:
 - a. First, something of David’s love and devotion to the Lord.
 - b. And second, something of Paul’s love and devotion.

II. Sermon.

A. First, let's consider David's love and devotion to the Lord.

1. If we were to examine David's life, we would certainly find this to be true.
 - a. But we have another source that gives us a much more direct view of his heart – the psalms he wrote.
 - b. They are full of examples of the great depth of his holy affection.
 - c. Remembering that David was merely a man as we are, let's compare our own spiritual zeal with his to provoke us to seek for a stronger love.

2. Consider the following examples:
 - a. The intensity with which he sought the Lord: “Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray. In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will order *my prayer* to You and *eagerly* watch” (Psalm 5:1-3).
 - b. His earnest praise of the name and person of the Lord: “O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth, who have displayed Your splendor above the heavens!” (Psalm 8:1).
 - c. The depth of his thankfulness and worship: “I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders. I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High” (Psalm 9:1-2).
 - d. The grief he experienced when he sensed the Lord had withdrawn from him: “How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?” (Psalm 13:1).
 - e. The strength of his trust in the Lord: “But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because He has dealt bountifully with me” (vv. 5-6).
 - f. His expressions of trust that the Lord will deliver him from his enemies: “Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You. I said to the LORD, ‘You are my Lord; I have no good besides You.’ As for the saints who are in the earth, they are the majestic ones in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who have bartered for another *god* will be multiplied; I shall not pour out their drink offerings of blood, nor will I take their names upon my lips. The LORD is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me. I will bless the LORD who has counseled me; indeed, my mind instructs me in the night. I have set the LORD continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will dwell securely. For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever” (Psalm 16).
 - g. His love and appreciation for the Law of God: “The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the

commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:7-10).

- h. His trust that he would see the lovingkindness of the Lord throughout his life: “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever” (Psalm 23).
- i. His desire to be where God’s presence dwells: O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells” (Psalm 26: 8).
- j. His strong confidence in the Lord’s faithfulness:
 - (a) “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; whom shall I dread? When evildoers came upon me to devour my flesh, my adversaries and my enemies, they stumbled and fell. Though a host encamp against me, my heart will not fear; though war arise against me, in *spite of* this I shall be confident” (Psalm 27:1-3).
 - (b) “The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him” (Psalm 28:7).
- k. His desire for communion with the Lord: “*When You said, ‘Seek My face,’* my heart said to You, ‘Your face, O LORD, I shall seek’” (Psalm 27:8).
- l. His praise of the Lord for answered prayer: “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul will make its boast in the LORD; the humble will hear it and rejoice. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together” (Psalm 34:1-3).
- m. And finally, the intensity of his hatred for the Lord’s enemies for the Lord’s sake: “Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with the utmost hatred; they have become my enemies” (Psalm 139:21-22).
- n. Edwards writes, “Those holy songs of his he has there left us, are nothing else but the expressions and breathings of devout and holy affections; such as an humble and fervent love to God, admiration of his glorious perfections and wonderful works, earnest desires, thirstings, and pantings of soul after God, delight and joy in God, a sweet and melting gratitude to God, for his great goodness, a holy exultation and triumph of soul in the favor, sufficiency, and faithfulness of God, his love to, and delight in the saints, the excellent of the earth, his great delight in the word and ordinances of God, his grief for his

own and others' sins, and his fervent zeal for God, and against the enemies of God and his church.”

- o. It's no wonder God considered David to be a man after His own heart.
3. We would do well to learn from David. Especially since the Lord had David pen these words not only for himself, but also to be the expression of His people towards Him in worship.
- B. Second, let's consider Paul's love and devotion to the Lord.
- 1. In many ways, Paul was the most zealous and devoted minister Christ had to bring His Gospel to the Jews, and especially to the Gentiles.
 - a. By God's grace, he almost single-handedly evangelized the whole Roman Empire.
 - b. He may be the most important servant Christ ever called.
 - 2. What was Paul like? Certainly, he was a man full of love and affection for Jesus Christ, as these examples show.
 - a. He was willing to lose everything and count everything he had done before Christ as refuse, so that he might gain Christ, “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ” (Phil. 3:7-8).
 - b. He loved Christ so much that he was willing to do whatever Christ wanted of him: “For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf” (2 Cor. 5:14-15).
 - c. He loved not only Christ, but Christ's people, and strongly desired that they would be established in Christ: “Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved” (Phil. 4:1).
 - d. Even when his own comfort was at stake, he always put the needs of the saints before his: “For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not so that you would be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you” (2 Cor. 2:4).
 - e. He considered his love for them to be like that of a nursing mother towards her infant, which is the strongest possible kind: “But we proved to be gentle among you, as a nursing *mother* tenderly cares for her own children. Having so fond an affection for you, we were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us” (1 Thes. 2:7-8).
 - f. He not only loved the saints, but even his fellow Jews who hated him, even to the point where he would give himself for them, as Christ did for His people: “I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my

heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (Rom. 9:1-3).

- g. As to his life overall, Edwards writes, “And it appears by his whole history, after his conversion, in the Acts, and also by all his epistles, and the accounts he gives of himself there that the affection of *zeal*, as having the cause of his Master, and the interest and prosperity of his church, for its object, was mighty in him, continually inflaming his heart, strongly engaging to those great and constant labors he went through, in instructing, exhorting, warning, and reproofing others, *travailing in birth with them*; conflicting with those powerful and innumerable enemies who continually opposed him, wrestling with principalities and powers, not fighting as one who beats the air, running the race set before him, continually pressing forwards through all manner of difficulties and sufferings; so that others thought him quite beside himself.” And how full he was of affection, does further appear by his being so full of tears: in 2 Cor. 2:4, he speaks of his a many tears;” and so Acts 20:19; and of his *tears that he shed continually night and day*, verse 31.”
- h. He concludes, “Now if anyone can consider these accounts given in the Scripture of this great apostle, and which he gives of himself, and yet not see that his religion consisted much in *affection*, must have a strange faculty of managing his eyes to shut out the light which shines most full in his face.”
- i. True religion has very much to do with the affections. They are what move us to do what we do for the Savior, and the lack of them are what keep us from doing more.
- j. How does your heart measure up? We all need to pray that the Lord would fill us with more of His Spirit and of this holy affection. Amen.