"YOUR WORK OF FAITH, LABOR OF LOVE"

(James 2:14-26)

INTRODUCTION - (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3) " ... making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love ... "

"Work of faith" - (Hebrews 6:9-12) " ... yes, things that accompany salvation ... "

"Labor" - a "work of faith;" activity; serve; specific duty or function; task.

"Of love" - cherish; to hold dear; desire; "Love can only be known by the action it prompts.

Love expresses itself in action." W.E. Vine

Work and faith, labor and love, have a connection, a togetherness.

(1 John 3:18) "let us not love in word or tongue, but in **deed and truth.**"
(KJV 2 Cor. 8:8) " ... prove the sincerity of your love."

Example of the woman at Simon's house: (Luke 7:44 - 47) "She has washed ... wiped ... kiss ... anointed ... her sins, which are many, are forgiven for she has loved much."

EXAMPLES OF "LABOR" AND "LOVE" WORKING TOGETHER

1. GOD - (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world that He gave ... "

(Romans 5:8) "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that ... "

(Ephesians 2:4-5) "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us ... made us alive together ... by grace you have been saved"

2. JESUS - (Ephesians 5:25) " ... just as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for her"

Christ's love for the church is demonstrated: 1) Sacrificially. (Acts 20:28) "the church ... which He purchased with His own blood. 2) Purposefully. (Eph. 5:27) "that He might present her to Himself a glorious church ... " 3) Voluntarily. (John 10:17-18) "I lay down My life ... no one takes it from Me ... " 4) Absolutely. He does not withhold anything needful from us, (Eph. 1:3) " ... all spiritual blessings ... "

- 3. HUSBANDS (Eph. 5:25) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." (v28-29) "as their own bodies" "nourish and cherish"
- 4. ALL OF US (John 14:15) "If you love Me, keep My commandments"
 - (1 Corinthians 15:58) "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in **the work** of the Lord, knowing that **your labor** is not in vain in the Lord
 - (2 John v6) "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments ... "