

16th of August 2015.

## The meaning of Charity continued (Charity Pt 4)

### Introduction.

This is our fourth study on the word “charity” in the Scriptures.

### Previous study.

1. Charity does not behave itself unseemly, and (2) charity seeketh not her own, and (3) charity is not easily provoked, and (4) charity thinketh no evil.

### Four points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

1. Charity rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, and (2) charity beareth all things, and (3) charity believeth all things, and (4) charity hopeth all things.

### Our four points in more detail.

1. Charity rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoices in the truth.

### Supporting Verse

1Cor.13: 6 “Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth”.

### Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Each of our points in this teaching are from 1Corinthians chapter 13, and so the context that is established in this first point will be applicable to each point that follows.

\* Chapter 13 is positioned between two chapters whose context is spiritual gifts. Verses 1–3 Paul established the need for charity beyond any spiritual gift, faith, and giving of our goods to the poor. Verse 4 the meaning of charity includes: “suffereth long, [and] is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is **not** puffed up.” Verse 5 which was covered in our previous study continued with the meaning that includes “doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil. It is within this context that we have our verse (verse 6) which continues on with the meaning of charity, that includes our first point “rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth”. Although we can do nothing to show charity by rejoicing not in iniquity, I have previously indicated in the case of other negatives that to do the opposite also fulfils the meaning of charity. Therefore, when our verse included the negative (“rejoiceth not”) and a positive (“rejoiceth in”) I included them as one point, because we show charity when we do not rejoice in iniquity and when we rejoice in the truth.

### Application of our verse today.

\* Each of our points in this teaching is from the same letter that Paul wrote to the Gentile Corinthian church, and so this point and each that follows is doctrinally applicable to us today.

### Illustration.

\* I know I have told this story to some, but not sure if I have ever included it as an illustration, so here goes: at the end of my second year at Bible College, and whilst on summer break I came to the knowledge that the English text of 1611 the Authorised Bible is God’s preserved Holy Scriptures. My first class after returning from summer break was studying 1Corinthians, and the lecturer’s first words did not include “welcome back”, “hello and God bless you all”, “good morning”, or anything similar. But rather his first words were “**Beware of the KJV only people**”, and proceeded to hand out a pamphlet that listed 200-plus verses that these “KJV only people” claimed were left out of the modern-day translations. I kept silent whereas the majority of the class appeared to rejoice in the lecturer’s claims. Who showed Biblical charity to the lecturer?

### Learning from our Illustration.

\* The answer to our question depends on whether or not the lecturer was a believer, and what is our authority for truth. If the lecturer was not in the body of Christ then, in the context of 1Cor.13 none of us showed him biblical charity, as it is shown between brethren. If the lecturer was a believer and he was teaching error then the class did not show him charity by rejoicing with him in his iniquity, and I (unknowingly) showed him charity with my silence.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* For a believer to fulfil this requirement of Scripture, he first needs to have the truth, and so identify truth from error, such that when his brother is working iniquity he can be silent and so rejoice not with his brother. And when his brother turns from his sin he can rejoice with him in the truth. Be encouraged to rejoice not in your brother's sin, but rejoice when he turns to the truth, and in doing so you will show him charity, because charity "Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth".

## 2. Charity beareth all things.

Supporting Verse.

1Cor.13: 7 "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* Our context is the same as our first point. And as for what it means when it says "beareth all things", let us turn to Deut.32: 11, where we see that the Lord uses an illustration of an eagle that stirs up her nest, flutters over her young, spreads her wings wide, and takes up her young, bearing them on her wings. She carries their full weight, just as we are encouraged to do for our brethren as Paul wrote in Gal.6: 2 "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Also, we note that the word "beareth" in Greek is also translated "suffer" and "forebear", and in 1Cor.9: 12 we are to "suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ." Perhaps when we do not bear, carry or suffer with our brethren and do not show them charity and we hinder the gospel.

Scriptural examples.

\* Moses, Paul, and the Lord Jesus are examples in Scripture of those who have shown charity to the brethren when they bore the burdens of their brethren.

Illustration.

\* There are parents in this world who swing their two year old child by their hands and end up killing them. There are other parents who from the day their child is born, their love for them drives them to suffer with them (as David did with Absalom), bear their every burden, and weakness, even well after they have flown the nest and established their own families. And the latter parent is a picture of my mentor towards his family and towards me, his brother, as he has suffered with me, and in doing so he "beareth all things" and shows me charity.

Learning from our Illustration.

\* Parents often bear the burdens of their children for a long time until they grow up, mature into adults, or have suffered themselves and so seek God's help to change. They do so because they love them, and it is no different to my mentor who shows his brotherly love for me (Rom.12: 19) when he bears my burdens and shows me charity. The Lord has used him to carry me from when I believed the College's doctrine, to the point when I came to know the Scriptures, and desire them, and now teach others. The path from error to truth is not always smooth, and so we need others willing to carry the burden with us, and suffer with us, and when they do, they show us charity.

Challenge & or encouragement.

\* Following on from our previous point: when we bear our brother's burdens (perhaps a weaker brother) of not believing the Authorised Bible to be Holy Scripture, and so help him to an understanding of the truth we show him charity. Now **that** is a challenge for all us.

## 3. Charity believeth all things.

Supporting Verse.

1Cor.13: 7 "Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."

Context and meaning of our verse.

\* In the context of showing charity to our brethren what does it mean to **believe** all things? We know it cannot mean that we believe all and any doctrine that our brethren bring to us, because

that would be contrary to the Scriptures that exhort us to “be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph.4: 14, see also Co.2: 22). Therefore, perhaps it means we believe what a brother says until proven otherwise, and we believe in them as brethren.

#### Illustration.

\* TV programmes will often portray their characters as liars, and their actions as being the norm for people. Hence the programme subtly encourages its listeners to hold onto secrets, cover up their past, by sowing seeds that you can never really know a person, including your spouse, or family member. For a Christian these seeds of doubt are no different to all the other devilish thoughts that Satan puts in the hearts of non-believers and Christians alike. They are essentially seeds of unbelief.

#### Learning from our Illustration.

\* In all things the Scriptures require a Christian to be different to the world, we are not to love the world (1Jn.2: 15), because all that is of the world “is not of the Father” (verse 16). Hence, whereas the devil sows seeds of doubt among people and families, history shows that these seeds of doubt have filtered into the church, then God says we are to do the opposite. Therefore, those in the body of Christ are to believe others in the body, rather than the lies sown by the devil.

#### Challenge & or encouragement.

\* If a person says they are a Christian then believe them. Do not immediately disbelieve them because of their outward appearance, but simply believe them, and when we do we show them charity. But in the same breath, do not be a fool, do not believe them without quietly proving all things. Keep your eyes open and observe how they respond, put out a question or two to prove who they are, and see what comes back, but do it all in a believing way, because charity “believeth all things”

### 4. Charity hopeth all things.

#### Supporting Verse.

1Cor 13:7 “Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.”

#### Illustration.

\* Most Christian parents would pray for their children and their immediate family to be saved and that is a great hope to hold onto. But what if we took that one step further, and as Christians we hoped that our families would come to the knowledge of the truth of the Holy Scriptures, that they would know God’s Holy writings, His Scripture being preserved perfect for the body of Christ today in the English Text of the Authorised Bible?

#### Learning from our Illustration.

\* Whether it be our families, friends or those on the street that claim to be Christian, I believe we should hope that each person we meet comes to the knowledge of the Scriptures being available today in the 1611 Authorised Bible, because in that book is “the hope of salvation” (1Thes.5: 8). We previously mentioned believing what our brother says is charity, well so is hoping that they would come to the knowledge of the truth, not giving up on them coming to that knowledge, regardless of their beliefs.

#### Challenge & or encouragement.

\* When we hope in salvation we “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil.2: 12), hence hope in something that causes us first to believe in salvation, then we work, as if we are going to achieve our salvation. Perhaps the same takes place when we “hopeth all things” in our brethren (that do not believe the Authorised Bible to be Holy Scripture), we work with them, hoping that they would come to that knowledge of the truth, and when we do, we show them charity, because charity is shown to our brethren when we “hopeth all things.”

### Summary of our four points.

1. Charity rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, and (2) charity beareth all things, and (3) charity believeth all things, and (4) charity hopeth all things.