

January 21, 2008

## TURN A CORNER!

There is a truth which, if you'll believe it, will bring you to the secret of life, and to joy beyond expressing. The truth is this: God loves you.

That's it. You sang it when you were little: "Jesus loves me; this I know for the Bible tells me so."

But as you grew older (if you're typical) you didn't pursue what His love is all about, and you've spent your years in hopes and disappointments, wonderings, fears, ups and downs.

"The man who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 Jn. 4:18).

God wants you to be made perfect in love. We're not talking primarily about your love for Him; anybody's love for God would be a shaky foundation indeed to build on. *We're talking about God's love for you:* purer, stronger, larger, more persevering than you've probably realized.

"Whoever is wise, let him... consider the great love of the Lord"  
(Ps. 107:43).

Understanding His love for you is the foundation – and the motivation – for practicing His presence. Who wants to draw near to someone who he only thinks of as far away, judgmental, awesome, and austere? That's how many people in their own human wisdom think of God, and they're not naturally drawn to that! So although they expect to go someday to heaven, they assume for now they'll just have to muddle along mostly on their own.

God's desire is for you to come close to Him. "Come near to God, and he will come near to you" (Isa. 4:8).

*NEAR* – ? You just turned a corner.