

Loving God

Preston Silcox

Answering the lawyer who asked what the great commandment in Moses' law was, Jesus declared, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Mat. 22:37). Jesus agreed that man has the duty of loving the Creator with his entire being. Since one proves love by actions rather than by mere words (1 John 3:18), consider a few responsibilities a person must meet in order to demonstrate his deep and all-encompassing love for God.

God's Word must Be Cherished

This principle is found in Deuteronomy 11:1: "There-fore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always." No one can truly love the Lord and discard His revealed will. Jesus pointed out this fact when He said, "If ye love me, keep my com-mandments" (John 14:15). All who sincerely love God want to know His will for them. Since the Bible declares that will, those who love God search the Scriptures and meditate upon the precepts revealed therein (Psa. 119:47-48).

All Wickedness must Be Abhorred

The Psalmist commanded, "Ye that love the LORD, hate evil" (Psa. 97:10). The person who truly loves God, absolutely despises sin; he sees it as a very ugly thing. He grasps God's view of it—as the vomit to which the dog turns (2 Pet. 2:22)—and with all his might, works diligently to avoid it. He knows that wickedness will cost the masses their souls (Mat. 7:13-14), and so he labors to warn the world (Mat. 28:18-20). While many attempt to dabble in sin and declare their allegiance to Jehovah, no one can truly love God without disdaining transgression.

The World must Be Properly Viewed

Recall the words of the Savior in Matthew 6:24: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Loving God and serving the temporal cannot take place simultaneously. Those who seek those things above and who set their affections on the same, are the ones who demonstrate proper love for the Lord (Col. 3:1-2). These realize that they are only sojourners, searching for a city "whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10).

True Worship must Be Enjoyed

David displayed an attitude that all should possess when given the opportunity to worship God: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD" (Psa. 122:1). Such gladness exhibits one's devotion and love to the Creator and Sustainer of life. There are many who show their disdain for God by their poor attitude toward true worship. Like Israel of old, they are weary of God and demon-strate such by viewing worship as a burden rather than a blessing (Isa. 43:22-23). Of course, just the opposite are those who long to "worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

There are numerous other responsibilities that come along with loving God with all of one's being, but those above stress that positive actions, not mere words, accompany true devotion to God. May every person who claims to love God with all his heart, soul, and mind demonstrate that love in deed and in truth (1 John 3:18).

The Uniqueness of Jesus

John Baker

Jesus Christ is the most unique individual who ever lived. Some have attempted to compare him to other religious leaders like Buddha, Confucius, and Mohammed, but when the evidence is considered Jesus stands head and shoulders above everyone else who has ever lived. Reflect on some truths that show the uniqueness of Jesus.

He is the only One who ever chose to be born. You and I did not have a choice in whether we were born, but Jesus did. Philippians 2:6-8 speaks of how Jesus chose to leave heaven and, "come in the likeness of men." This fact ought to cause us to contemplate the greatness of his sacrifice for us. "Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

He is the only One whose birthday split history in two. For more than two thousand years, history has been recognized as being divided into two parts based on the time of Jesus' birth – "BC" which stands for "Before Christ," and "AD" which stands for "Anno Domini" meaning the "Year of Our Lord." Modern skeptics do not appreciate these designations and so have tried to replace "BC" and "BCE" – "Before the Common Era" and "AD" with "CE" – "Common Era." Regardless of how one chooses to designate the two eras, it is highly significant that the birth of a child in Bethlehem is the event from which nearly the entire world (believers and unbelievers alike) records the dates of history.

He is the only One who never sinned. The Scriptures show Jesus as the One who has "done all things well" (Mark 7:37). He certainly looked, behaved, and thought differently than the people around Him, but this merely was a manifestation of His sinlessness. "[He] committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth" (1 Pet. 2:22).

He is the only One who can mediate between God and man. Jesus can be our Mediator because He is equally related to both God and man, and He is equally interested in the welfare of both parties (cf. 1 Tim. 2:5; Col. 2:9-10; Heb. 2:9ff). no one but Jesus could legitimately say that they fully understand the interests of God and man at the same time (Heb. 7:25). When one contemplates the work of Jesus, one is compelled to exclaim, "O what a Savior!"

He is the only One who can save. Jesus Himself made this exclusive claim when he said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). The apostles later repeated this claim: "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). The tombs of Mohammed, Buddha, and Confucius are occupied, but Jesus left an empty tomb (John 20:1ff). Resurrection and eternal life are only found in the One who has Himself come back from the grave, never to die again.

These are but a few of the truths that show the uniqueness of Jesus. May all of us be more thoughtful and reflective concerning the identity of the One whose name we wear.

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Remember in Prayer:

Sharon Wallace had surgery on the 14th. It may be some time before she regains strength enough to get out. Cards, calls and prayers would be appreciated.

Marshall Lands is now at home.

Linda Baker is in Ridgecrest, Room 405. She is no longer in quarantine.

Susan Kelley (widow of Arnold Kelley) has been hospitalized with pulmonary edema and has been placed on oxygen. She is not doing well.

Please be sure to remember those of our sick with cards and prayers and other acts of kindness. Check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer List.

Pray for those who are directly or indirectly affected by Covid-19. At his time we are not aware of any of our members that fall into this category.

In Other News:

Ukraine Missions are in need of shaving cream, hairbrushes, band-aids and clothing. There are buckets in the foyer for those items.

Ladies Night Out will be held on Tuesday, May 11th. More details will be announced later.

The monthly Men’s breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th at 8:00 A.M.

Those Privileged To Serve
April 25, 2021

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK
Week Of
April 18, 2021

SUNDAY MORNING
Song Leader: Mark Wooten
Opening Prayer: Scottie Blanchard
Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson
Bible Reading: Mitch Mosley
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

SUNDAY EVENING
Song Leader: Randy Oden
Opening Prayer: Mark Wooten
Closing Prayer: Kevin Roush
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

Sunday Bible Study 82
Sunday AM Worship 97
Sunday PM Worship 70
Wednesday Bible Study 72
Contribution \$4,747

LORD’S TABLE
Presiding: Scott Pratt

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
April 28, 2021
Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Mike Felts
Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris

“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Dan Nichols

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER
April 28, 2021
Mark Wooten

Proverbs 23:26

The Friend of Truth



Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

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KeeNotes

Storms of Life

Author Unknown

At some point in life most of us face many types of health, financial, family or other serious problem. Recently, it seems that “storm clouds” have encircled many due to lost jobs, poor health and the economic situation in our country. It would be quite easy to begin counting our problems instead of our blessings.

Life is precious. It was given each of us by God. He understands that we face difficulties in this short sojourn on earth. Yet, trials and sufferings are a part of life itself, brought on by the sin in the world since Adam and Eve.

Tragedies may come, jobs may be lost, diseases may rack our bodies, or business losses may cause financial disasters. There may be times when we feel we are all alone and overcome by life’s difficulties. God did not promise to take away our troubles. But He did promise that the Lord would never leave nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). When trials surround us, He offers comfort and hope through His Word (Romans 15:4). He gives us peace through Christ (John 16:4; Philippians 4:7). If we are in Christ, then nothing can separate us from God’s love (Romans 8:35-39).

When the storms of life comes our way, let us call to mind the words of the apostle Peter, “casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7).

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols
Randy Oden

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Stacy Eddleman
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Scott Pratt
Kevin Roush
Mark Wooten

MISSIONARIES

Guyana, South America
Samrit Kammanee
Micah Robertson, Montana
Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17
Believe the Word of God
John 8:24
Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3
Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10
Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38
Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10
“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.” (John 4:35)

Each One Invite One in Twenty-One