

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE FOR GOD (Part 2)
Mark 12:29-34

INTRODUCTION:

A. In Part 1 our last Bible Study, we examined four ways in which Believers can express their love for God by realizing that: (1) God First Loved Us, (2) God Sent Jesus to be Our Savior, (3) Giving Praises to God, and (4) Studying the Bible (The Word of God).

B. Christian Quotes on Loving God:

- “Loving God more than anyone or anything else is the very foundation of being a Disciple. If you want to live your Christian life to its fullest, then love Jesus more than anyone or anything else.” – Greg Laurie
- “If loving God with all our heart and soul and might is the greatest commandment, then it follows that not loving Him that way is the greatest sin.” – R.A. Torrey
- “Heaven is not a place for those who are afraid of hell; It’s a place for those who love God.” – Matt Chandler

In Part 2 of this lesson, we will examine four additional ways in which Believers can express (make known) their love for God.

I. LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS (Mark 12:31)

- “And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:31).

A. The Second Commandments (v. 31)

The Scribe only asked about the First Commandment (v. 28), which to the Scribe was the most important one. Jesus responded by telling him there are two commandments that go together – the two go hand in hand – you cannot have one without the other (vv. 30-31).

- 1.** How we respond to the First Commandment (Loving God) will determine how we respond to the Second Commandment (Loving Our Neighbor).
- 2.** When we obey the Second Commandment (Loving Our Neighbor), it gives evidence that we have comprehended the First Commandment (Loving God).
 - “Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come; so now I say to you. A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:33-35).
- 3.** Jesus quoted from Lev 19:18 – “Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”

B. We are to Love thy “Neighbor as Thyself” (v. 31)

1. We are to love ourselves (v. 31)

“As thyself” – Do you love yourself? Is your outlook on life positive or negative? Always be thankful to God for all that he does for you.

2. We are to love our neighbors (v. 31)

a. Who is your neighbor?

Everybody, anybody, anybody who needs us, any person in distress, hurting or suffering, anyone who needs the saving news of salvation.

- **Our enemies are our neighbors, Jesus said, “Love your Enemies” (Matt 5:44)**

b. The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) – vv. 33-37

c. How to show love for our neighbor

- i.** Reach out and help when someone has a need.
- ii.** Offer words of encouragement.
- iii.** Be willing to be inconvenienced – give of your time, talent, and money.
- iv.** Visit those in jails, nursing homes, shelters, hospitals.

II. EVANGELISM (Soul-Winning)

Believers express love for God by sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A. Soul-Winning is a figure of speech for evangelism or witnessing for Christ.

- 1.** The Bible commands Believers to be Soul-Winners. We are to fulfill the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20).
- 2.** Believers are commanded to be witnesses of their faith to the world (Acts 1:8).
 - “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise” (Prov 11:30).

B. Why should Believers be motivated for Soul-Winning

- 1.** All people are born sinners (Rom 3:23; Eph 2:1-3)
- 2.** All will be judged for their sin by God (Rom 6:23)
- 3.** The only way to avoid God’s judgment and eternal wrath is to repent of sin and embrace Christ by faith (Eph 2:8-9)

C. Ways To Evangelize

- 1.** Romans Road
- 2.** A-B-C’s of Salvation

D. Do You Believe The Gospel?

Some time ago an 18-year-old girl from Washington state attended a worship service. For the first time in her life she heard the gospel message. The following Tuesday the members of the church received a letter from her. It read:

Dear Church Members:

Last Sunday I attended your church, and I heard the preacher. In the sermon the preacher said that all men have sinned and rebelled against God. Because of their rebellion and disobedience they all face eternal damnation and separation from God. But then he also said God loves man and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to redeem men from their sins and that all those who believe in Him would go to Heaven and live with God eternally. My parents recently died in rapid succession. I know they did not believe in Jesus Christ, whom you call the Saviour of the world. If what you believe is true, they are damned. You compel me to believe that either the message is true, that you yourself don't believe this message, or that you don't care. You see, we live only three blocks from your church, and no one ever told us. - (Source: Unknown)

- Be sure to share the Gospel of Christ's Saving Grace with others – neighbors, co-workers, friends, business establishments employees and others you may come in contact with.
- Rescue the Perishing, Care for the Dying;
Jesus is Merciful, Jesus will Save.
- "I'm just a **nobody**, trying to tell **everybody**, about **somebody**, who can save **anybody**." – The Williams Brother

E. GOD ACCEPTS ANYONE

Samuel Colgate, the founder of the Colgate business empire, was a devout Christian, and he told of an incident that took place in the church he attended. During an evangelistic service, an invitation was given at the close of the sermon for all those who wished to turn their lives over to Christ and be forgiven. One of the first persons to walk down the aisle and kneel at the altar was a well-known prostitute. She knelt in very real repentance, she wept, she asked God to forgive her, and meanwhile the rest of the congregation looked on approvingly at what she was doing. Then she stood and testified that she believed God had forgiven her for her past life, and she now wanted to become a member of the church. For a few moments, the silence was deafening. Finally, Samuel Colgate arose and said, "I guess we blundered when we prayed that the Lord would save sinners. We forgot to specify what kind of sinners. We'd better ask him to forgive us for this oversight. The Holy Spirit has touched this woman and made her truly repentant, but the Lord apparently doesn't understand that she's not the type we want him to rescue. We'd better spell it out for him just which sinners we had in mind." Immediately, a motion was made and unanimously approved that the woman be accepted into membership in the congregation.

III. **TITHES AND OFFERING** (1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:12)

A. **Tithing is the giving of ten percent of your income to support the local church and Offerings are any amount above and beyond your tithe.**

- You are not restricted to ten percent of your income – You can give more than the ten percent.

B. **According to Apostle Paul, our tithe must be systematic, personal, planned, proportionate and plentiful** (1 Cor 16:2).

Paul also said, our giving should be with a heart that is ready and willing to give.

- “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver” (2 Cor 9:7).
- Generous giving is an expression of the Believer’s love for God.
- “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Luke 12:34).
- **Billy Graham once said, “Give me five minutes with a person’s checkbook and I will tell you where their heart is.”**

IV. **THE BLESSED HOPE** (Titus 2:13-14)

“¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (Titus 2:13-14).

The Blessed Hope is the glorious return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

A. **For Believers, The Blessed Hope – eminent return of Christ – is an expression of our Love for God.**

1. We should live each day in continual anticipation and expectancy, with the conviction that Christ could return at any time. **Today Could Be The Day!**
2. Believers should always be listening for “a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God” while awaiting the return of Christ Jesus (1 Thess 4:13-18).

B. **The Blessed Hope will be a Glorious Union** (John 14:3).

We will see Christ for the first time and be united with Him forever.

C. **The Blessed Hope will be a Glorious Reunion** (1 Thess 4:17-18)

The dead in Christ will rise and we who live shall be reunited with our loved ones and friends forever.

- Jesus is our Blessed Hope. This is not Hope as in wishful thinking; It is divine certainty or Blessed Assurance” – Adrian Rogers

D. One Day!

Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me; Buried, He carried my sins far away;
Rising, He justified freely, forever; One day He's coming: O glorious day!

CONCLUSION:

A. Is God in first place in your life? Do you love Him more than anybody or anything in the world?

B. Express your love for God: (1) Because He First Loved You, (2) He Sent His Son to Be Your Savior, (3) By Giving Praises to God, (4) By Studying the Bible, (5) By Loving Your Neighbor, (5) Through Evangelism (Soul-Winning), (7) Giving of Tithes and Offerings, and (8) By Living each day in Expectation of The Blessed Hope.

C. O How I Love Jesus

O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!

D. ABC's of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Teaching Ministry of:
Pastor Carl Bennett
Corinth Christian Fellowship
June 26, 2024

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).