

Studies in Christianity Christian Love #4

S#1.

How I Know I Love God

S#2.

Text : **I John 2: 15-17, 5: 1-5 ; Psalms 18: 1-6**

A. We are studying the most important aspect of our relationship with God.

S#3.

1. We know this because Jesus clearly taught it as being most important.
Matt. 22: 36 – You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
 and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
 This is the great and foremost commandment.” (**Deut. 5:6**)
2. He established the hierarchy of commands by giving the second
Matt. 22: 39 – The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
3. He further elaborated that these two are the summation of God's will for man.
Matt. 22: 40 – On these two commandments depend
 the whole Law and the Prophets.
4. **THUS**, one must first get a handle on these two if he will walk with God.

B. Last week was observed that :

S#4.

1. The love one has for God is beyond that which is common among people.
 - a. There is emotion, but it is a love of the will, **i.e.**, not dependent on emotions.
 - b. It is NOT a conditions based relationship.
 - c. It is a love that dominates our life. (*after the pattern of Jesus*)
2. If we have this special kind of love we cannot hide it.
 - a. It will be observable because it will change our lives.
 - b. It will create within us a humble and gentle spirit.
 - c. It will give us a compassionate heart.
3. Truly knowing the joy of the Lord will cause one to be touched by the lost.
 - a. One who loves the Lord does not want His death to be for naught.
 - b. Those who love God know that He is just so they fear for the lost.
 - c. Those who love the Lord want to see him glorified by the lost being saved.
4. When one loves our God and also his neighbor he will share the gospel w/ him.
 - a. Many don't share the gospel because it is embarrassing.
 - b. **Mark 8: 38** – "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

S#5.

C. This week we will learn that love for God :**S#6.**

1. Gives one strength. **Psa. 18**
2. Isolates one from the world, **I Jn. 2**
3. Motivates one to desire to obey God. **I John 5**

I. Loving God gives one confidence, courage and strength.**S#7.****A. David wrote Psalm #18 about his life.****S#8.**

1. Much of the same language is found in **II Sam. 22.**
2. It was written near the end of David's life. (*Some say his last psalm ?*)
3. It is the most lengthy Psalm in your daily bible reading thus far. (**50 vss**)
4. We look at only the first section in which David extols his many triumphs.

B. David openly declares his love for God.**S#9.**

1. **Psa. 18: 1** – "I love You, O Lord, my strength."
2. Only David uses this word in this form ... רַחֵם ... racham ... deep emotion
* *racham is difficult to translate*
 - a. Love, Compassionate, tender mercy
 - b. In the noun form it is : womb, tender love of a mother
3. David is saying, "*With my deepest emotions I love God.*"
4. With slight variations it can mean many things.
 - a. affectionately love you
 - b. vehemently love you
 - c. most tenderly will I love you
 - d. I will dearly love you
 - e. When Joseph was Benjamin : from my innermost bowels I love you

C. God is David's strength, He has enabled him to be triumphant in 5 ways.**S#10.**

Psa. 18: 2 – The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God,
my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold.

1. Psa. 18:2 – The Lord is my rock**S#11.**

- a. God was his place of safety.
- b. **Judg. 15:8** – He (*Samson*) struck them ruthlessly with a great slaughter; and he went down and lived in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

2. **Psa. 18:2** – The Lord is ... my fortress S#12.
 - a. David is saying, “*The Lord is a strong wall around me.*”
 - b. Nothing gets through unless God allows it. (*Why does God allow difficulties.*)
3. **Psa. 18:2** –The Lord is ... my deliverer, פִּלֶּט ... palat (**Col 1:13** .. rescued) S#13.
 - a. A deliverer is one who fights a battle that another cannot win.
Obadiah 21 – The deliverers will ascend Mount Zion to judge the mountain of Esau, and the kingdom will be the Lord's.
 - b. You are I are still locked in an intense spiritual battle that you cannot win alone.
Eph. 6: 1 – For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the S#14.
rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness,
against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 - c. God still intercedes on behalf of His people. *He is your deliverer.*
I Cor. 10: 13 – No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common S#15.
to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted
beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the
way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.
4. **Psa. 18:2** – Lord is ... My shield (KJV = Buckler) and the horn of my salvation, S#16.
 - a. Shield .. מָגֵן magen ... That which keeps one safe in hand to hand combat
 - b. Horns ... were symbolic for strength, might, power
5. **Psa. 18:2** – The Lord is ... my stronghold. S#17.
 - a. מִשְׁבָּת misgab ... lofty place, refuge, unassailable place
 - b. Security ... Place to which one goes to escape overwhelming odds.

D. So loving God gives us :

1. Courage to engage those outside Christ :
Rom. 1: 16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of S#18.
God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and ...
2. Strength to overcome :
I John 5: 4 – For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; S#19.
and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.
3. Confidence to face the judgment :
II Tim. 1: 12 – For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; S#20.
for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that
He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

II. Love for God disassociates one from the world.**S#21.****A. Love for God will slowly consume one's life ... there will be no balance.****S#22.**

1. One who is trying to maintain a "proper balance" in his life has no yet learned to love God with all his heart soul and mind.
2. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ... **Luke 12:29**
3. While setting opposite the temple treasury Jesus observed :
 - a. **Mark 12: 42** – ... many rich people were putting in large sums. **42** A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. **43** Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, "Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; **44** for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on." **S#23.**
 - b. her gift reflected her attitude toward God.
 - c. Attitude does determine one's giving, but our lesson is about our attitude of heart,

B. Our text clearly states what our attitude toward the world must be.

1. **I John 2: 15** – Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. **S#24.**
2. It is a simple binary choice ... yes or no ... A or B ... God or world
3. To the extent one loves the world, he cannot love God. **S#25.**
 - a. **Matt. 22: 37** – You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.
 - b. How much love is left for this world ? **None ! (Luke 14: 26 .. hate father &)**

C. The devil is skilled at seduction.**S#26.**

1. He starts off just seeking friendship. That's why God warns :
James 4:4 – You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
2. We have to keep enough distance from the world so as not to be influenced. **S#27.**
 - a. **James 1: 27** – Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.
 - b. The culture of this world is very seductive. It is hard not to be drawn in.

III. Loving God will cause one to desire to obey Him.**S#28.****A. Loving God and obeying His commandments are inseparable concepts.**

1. **John 14: 15** – If you love Me, you **will** keep My commandments. **S#29.**
2. **I John 5: 3** – For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

B. Obedience to God is emphasized all through the bible.

1. Those who live the teachings of Christ are said to be wise.
Matt 7: 24 – Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. **S#30.**
2. Those who don't live by the teachings of the word are said to be delusional.
James 1: 22 – But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

C. There are many reasons to obey God's commands.**S#31.**

1. Some obey out of fear.
2. Some obey out of a sense of duty.
3. Some obey because of peer pressure.
4. Some obey because they anticipate receiving a reward.
- *5. Some obey because they love God and want to both please and glorify Him. **S#32.**

D. The God who IS love & holiness loves us so all His commands are for our benefit.

1. The approach of Satan in the garden was to ascribe evil motives to God.
2. None of God's commands are meant to be a burden to His followers.
Matt. 11: 28 – Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **S#33.**

C. Loving God is the most important thing one can ever do.**S#34.**

1. Gives one strength. **Psa. 18**
2. Isolates one from the world, **I Jn. 2**
3. Motivates one to desire to obey God. **I John 5**

INVITATION : Jesus is waiting for you to requite His love.**S#35.****S#36.** ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**I John 2: 15-17 ; 5: 1-5**

2: 15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

5: 1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. **2** By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. **3** For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome. **4** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.

5 Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Psalms 18: 1-6

1 I love You, O Lord, my strength.

2 The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

3 I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised,
And I am saved from my enemies.

4 The cords of death encompassed me,
And the torrents of ungodliness terrified me.

5 The cords of Sheol surrounded me;
The snares of death confronted me.

6 In my distress I called upon the Lord,
And cried to my God for help;
He heard my voice out of His temple,
And my cry for help before Him came into His ears.