



CHRIST *the*
REDEEMER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Family and Individual Devotions

Meditations in the Book of Hebrews

The Life of Faith-Rooted in God's Promises,

Running to the New Jerusalem

Week of October 21, 2007

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hat is your attitude towards the law of God? Is it something you cherish and plant in your heart? Do you meditate on God's precepts day and night? These are all good things. However, it is of little value to know the commands of God if you don't obey them. There must be a connection between knowledge of God's word and an active application of that knowledge to the conduct of your life. During his ministry Jesus defined the two great commandments. The first, to "**love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind**". The second, to "**love your neighbor as yourself**". When Jesus talks about love he does not mean a mere friendly affection. Love is an attitude of devotion that motivates us to a life of service.

Sunday 10/21

Read: The commandment to first Love God is not a coincidence. Without first loving God it would be impossible to properly love others. The love of God is foundational to all that we do. Apart from God we can do nothing (**John 15:5**). Apart from God anything we do is nothing more than filthy rags (**Isaiah 64:6**).

Application: God is the one who motivates us to love. Only by resting in Him are we able to perform acts that are righteous. Only by His righteousness are we able to serve in a manner that glorifies his name. Without first loving God, the love of others is impossible.

Pray: Your love for God will spur you forward into the love of others.

We Are One In The Spirit

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride.

Chorus:

And they'll know we are Christians
By our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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Monday 10/22

Read: When you look at others how do you see them? Do you place requirements on others before you will show them love? Do they have to be "lovable"? Let's face it, some people are not as easy to love as others. But they are still your neighbors, and you are still commanded to love them.

Application: Think about how you in your sinfulness appeared to a righteous God.. Do you think you were lovable to him? As sinful as you are, God showed the ultimate love for you by giving His Son so you might live (**John 3:16, Romans 5:8**). The love Christ showed us is the model for the love we are expected to show others. We are to love others despite what we think of them.

Pray: Your life would emulate the love God has shown for you.

Tuesday 10/23

Read: Love is not merely a feeling, it is something that can be seen. It does not consist of platitudes, but of a proactive concern for the welfare of others driven by the desire to be obedient of the commands of God.

Application: Do not merely wish others well (**James 2:16**), rather, take action to initiate their well being. Do not merely display your gifts and talents, but use them. Scripture teaches us the love without action is nothing but "**a resounding gong or clanging cymbal**" (**I Corinthians 13:1**). Don't be just a noise maker.

Pray: For a heart that puts love into action.

Wednesday 10/24

Read: Love in action requires we be attentive to the situations around us. We are to be attentive in our home, our church, where we work, and in our community. Love demands we respond whenever we see a situation requiring rectifying.

Application: In **Luke 10:31-32** the priest and the Levite were paying attention, but only to circumvent their responsibility to a fellow traveler. This response is not a fruit of the Spirit. If our eyes are truly turned upon Jesus we will also keep them focused on our neighbor.

Pray: That your eyes and spirit would be attentive to the needs of others.

Thursday 10/25

Read: The Samaritan rightfully responded with pity, taking care of the immediate needs of his fellow man. The richness of the Samaritan's compassion continued to unfold as he took the traveler to a place of safety promising payment for all expenses.

Application: The Samaritan showed a substantive love, a visible display of obedience to God's word. Making love the centerpiece of their life is the call of every Christian. We are to display a love to others that flows from our love of God's mercy. A sacrificial love that look out for the interests of others.

Pray: : The love in your heart would continue to expand as you more clearly understand the love God has shown you.

Friday 10/26

Read: The one whose love of God flows from the love God first showed him is the one who should most fully understand mercy. We are a conduit for the love of God. God has graciously loved us and we in turn should graciously love others.

Application: The parable of the Samaritan shows us true mercy and love. "**Go and do likewise**".

Pray: For eyes that will perceive opportunities to reflect the love of God.

Saturday 10/27

Read: Christ's church is made up of people. "**We are his house**" (**Hebrews 3:6**). You are called to "**declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness**" (**I Peter 2:9**). While love is the centerpiece of the Christian life, there is much more to be incorporated into your life.

Application: "**Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God**" (**Matthew 4:4, Luke 4:4**). God has revealed himself to us through the bible. Each word is to be used to fully equip us for the works to which we have been called.

Pray: For a heart that desires to understand and apply the word of God.