

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

“Christianity 101 - Loving”

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

May 18 – May 24, 2008

THE LORD'S DAY –This week as we continue on in our study in **1 Thessalonians** we come to **verses 9-10** of **chapter 4**. We are only taking two short verses this week because they contain such a basic yet foundational truth pertaining to Christian living. The topic of love for the brethren is so absolutely foundational that without having and exercising it, the claim of faith by an individual is reduced to just that, merely a “claim”. This is solid basic truth we are about to cover and I pray God The Holy Spirit would use His Word to bring about change and new life and love among His people. Read **1 Thessalonians 4:9-10**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Ask the Lord to teach you from His Word this week.*

MONDAY –Before we even look at our text this week I think it is crucial for us to see that love and the demonstration of it is a command of God we find in the earliest pages of Scripture. In the Pentateuch we find that God lays out the command that we are to first and foremost, love Him, the Triune God, and then we are to also show love to others (“*thy neighbor*”) by loving them “*as yourself*”. This passage in Deuteronomy helps elaborate to us how we “love” and what it requires from us. The text says we are to love God with “*all*” our “*heart, soul, and strength*”. Suffice to say here, “loving” God is something that should consume our total person. We are to be consumed with a fervent love and longing for knowledge of God, and to see the glory of God proclaimed in all our desires, emotions, thinking, longings, etc... And it is to be expressed through tireless effort (all our strength). It is also important to note that only a supernatural work of God can make that type of love even exist in a person and it is God who brings that love to the souls of His elect. Read **Deuteronomy 6:4, Leviticus 19:18, Romans 5:5**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God’s Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, help me fulfill this great command and love You as I ought. Thank You for this true love You put into me as Your child.*

TUESDAY –We saw briefly yesterday that only a true child of God can truly love God the way He has commanded; and we saw that God in His grace even pours this

Praise & Prayer	ADORATION Hallowed be Your name. (6:9)	AUTHORITY Your Kingdom come... (6:10)	APPEAL Give us this day... (6:11)	AQUITAL Forgive us our debts... (6:12)	ASSISTANCE Deliver us from evil. (6:13a)	ADMIRATION For Yours is the Kingdom... (6:13)
Lord's Day						
Mon						
Tue						
Wed						
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Matthew 6:9-13

love into us as Paul told the believers in Rome. Scripture is replete with verses that show us this link between salvation and a love for God, other believers, and others in general. God willing, this Lord's Day we will cover this in more detail. We also will look at how we are to love each other as believers as we continue this week in our **Thessalonians** text. But for today, let us focus on the general expression of love that will be evident in the lives of God's children toward others in general. To do that we will go to a parable that Jesus told in the New Testament which is known simply as "The Good Samaritan". This parable exemplifies before our eyes what "real love" looks like and then notice Jesus' command at the end of the text is simply to say, "*Go and do likewise*". Read **Luke 10:25-37**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Father, forgive me for not loving You or others as I should. Help me to fulfill the law of love toward You and my neighbor from my heart that You would be seen and glorified not that I may get kudos from observers.*

WEDNESDAY –Sadly, as I ponder these deep truths of God's Word, I am afraid that the world has millions of professing "Christians" that do not feel any of this type of love which God speaks of in Scripture. I fear it is not felt toward Him, or others whether they be believers or unbelievers. As I grow more in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ I find that this love in my heart is intensified and it comes forth more and more as I look at people who are lost and dead in sin heading to eternal torment and suffering apart from salvation and deliverance through Jesus Christ. We need to ask God to cultivate this love in us. When we see someone in society who is mean or unkind to us, instead of being angry with them, ask God to help you to see that person in the horrible state of sin that they are truly in. Ask God to help you love and weep for them and ask God to save them by His grace. Then reach out in love by returning good for evil and being humble and not seeking vengeance. Where God gives opportunity, give others the gospel of Jesus Christ which is a clear demonstration of real "love". Read of Jesus' example of loving others in **Mark 10:17-22, Luke 13:34-35, 23:24**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Oh Father, help me live like Jesus and reach out in love to the lost! May I have the forgiving spirit that was in my Savior at the cross.*

THURSDAY –I need to get to our text in **Thessalonians** but I must say as a footnote -This Lord's Day we will consider what some see as a contradiction in Holy Scripture; the matter of God loving the lost and yet still being The Sovereign One who alone determines destiny and "*declares the end from the beginning*" (**Isaiah 46:10**). Finally, in our text in Thessalonians we get to the matter of loving one another within the body of Christ. Paul summarizes in **verse 9**, the thoughts

we have been trying to say in the previous days when he explains that God's elect are "*you yourselves taught by God to love one another*". Genuine believers are taught by God Himself through The Word of God and the indwelling of The Holy Spirit that they are to love their brethren. Because we possess God's love we then have by the new birth the ability and desire to love each other. This is not to say that while we grow in sanctification we need not be told to love each other because we still battle with sin which "*wars against our soul*". The Apostle John ("The Beloved Apostle") has much to say concerning this relationship of knowing God and then loving our brothers. Read **1 John 2:9-10, 3:14-15, 4:7-8**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Oh Father, thank You for working in me and giving me a love for my brethren. Thank You that You convict me as Your child when I don't love.*

FRIDAY –When Paul uses the phrase "*brotherly love*", he uses the familiar Greek word philadelphia which literally means "love of brothers or sisters". In the New Testament it is used foremost to speak of spiritual brothers and sisters. Real brotherly love is always expressed in acts of service and sacrifice. Many people should just stop lying about loving the brethren because they do not serve and sacrifice for the brethren. Like we said yesterday, because love is "of God" and "Fruit of The Spirit", it is impossible for genuine believers not to love. Paul was clearly speaking to genuine believers in **verse 10**; for he says concerning them and their showing love, "*...you do so toward all the brethren...*" If you are a believer and not loving as you should, you will be convicted of that sin and chastised. The basic truth of "Christianity 101" is that if you are a Christian, you will love your brother. Read **John 13:34-35, 1 John 2:16-19**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Jesus, help me follow Your example of loving humility and serve and sacrifice for my brothers as You did in washing the feet of Your disciples.*

SATURDAY –Paul ends our text by urging us as believers to "*increase more and more*" in our love for one another. We are not yet perfect in our behavior but as God's true children we can and will be conformed more and more into His image. Take heart believer if you feel convicted of not loving as you should. Embrace the Gospel message of forgiveness, embrace the man of the Gospel Jesus Christ, His death has atoned for our sin now go out clean and love your brethren and watch Him work His will in you. Read **1 Peter 1:22, Philippians 2:12-13**.

What truth(s) did I learn from God's Word today?

Suggestion for prayer: *Thank You for forgiveness Father and for new starts. Help me.*