

**ASPECTS OF LOVING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE JESUS ARE ANATHEMA
6-25-23**

THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE CHRIST ARE CURSED (Anathama)
THOSE WHO DO LOVE CHRIST ARE BLESSED (Forgiven & Blessed)
THE PROOF WE LOVE CHRIST IS SEEN IN OUR SERVICE FOR HIM..
(*the love of Christ constrains us...*)

TEXT

I Corinthians 16:19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

I Corinthians 16:20 All the brethren greet you. Greet ye one another with an holy kiss.

I Corinthians 16:21 The salutation of [me] Paul with mine own hand.

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

I Corinthians 16:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ [be] with you.

I Corinthians 16:24 My love [be] with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

A LIFE THAT IS ANATHEMA

Our text is found in I Corinthians 16:22

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

MEANING OF THE WORD:

331□ anathema, an-ath'-em-ah; from 394; a (religious) ban or (concr.) excommunicated (thing or person):-accursed, anathema, curse, X great.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

394□ anatithemai, an-at-ith'-em-ahee; from 303 and the mid. of 5087; to set forth (for oneself), i.e. propound:-communicate, declare.

Anathama, is a declaration of a curse, a banishment, a declaration that this person is set apart for destruction..

WHY IS THERE A CURSE FOR THE PERSON THAT DOES NOT LOVE THE LORD?

I. A PERSON WHO LOVES NOT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS CURSED BECAUSE HE REJECTS THE ONLY PROVISION FOR HIS SINS THERE IS NO PARDON FOR THE PERSON WHO REJECTS HIS GIFT.. AND GIFT GIVER!

If there be any unpardonable sin today this would be that sin!

Mark 3:22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.

Mark 3:23 And he called them [unto him], and said unto them in parables, How can Satan cast out Satan?

Mark 3:24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

Mark 3:25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Mark 3:26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end.

Mark 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.

Mark 3:28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme:

Mark 3:29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:

Mark 3:30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

Here we see how the Scripture shows that a person who does not love the Lord Jesus Christ is indeed.. ANATHAMA..

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

Imagine attributing to Jesus.. and his works.. evil... THE WORKS OF SATAN!

Calling good evil and evil.. good!! Where are you going to go from there?

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

There is no other way to receive forgiveness of sins than through Jesus, whom God sent into the World.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Men would like to think there is another way to be saved, but according to the Bible there is no other way.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

So when someone rejects Jesus, they reject the only way that they can have forgiveness of sins and salvation.

There is no other way..

It is so sad that we have churches and preachers teaching that there are other ways to come to Christ. We have so called Christian churches saying that Moslems can be saved without coming to Christ.. Buddhists can be saved without Christ.. all these can come to God without Christ. This is not what the Scripture teaches.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

This was the offense of Christianity that brought persecution. Yet this is what Jesus taught and the early apostles taught. There never would have been persecution under Rome if the early Christians just taught that Jesus was just another way along with the thousands of gods of Rome.

So a person who rejects Jesus, the only way to God, has not life.

II. A PERSON WHO LOVES NOT THE LORD IS CURSED BECAUSE GOD IS ANGRY WITH THOSE WHO REJECT HIS SON.

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish [from] the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed [are] all they that put their trust in him.

He is angry because of the sacrifice that was provided and people have rejected it. People also are accursed who do not love him because he is our great King, and to show Jesus disrespect offends and angers God our Father. Jesus spoke a parable to illustrate this.

Matthew 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Matthew 22:3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come.

Matthew 22:4 Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and [my] fatlings [are] killed, and all things [are] ready: come unto the marriage.

Matthew 22:5 But they made light of [it], and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

Matthew 22:6 And the remnant took his servants, and entreated [them] spitefully, and slew [them].

Matthew 22:7 But when the king heard [thereof], he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city.

Matthew 22:8 Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy.

Matthew 22:9 Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage.

Matthew 22:10 So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests.

Matthew 22:11 And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:

Matthew 22:12 And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Matthew 22:13 Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast [him] into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:14 For many are called, but few [are] chosen.

Here we have a parable about God's son.. who God the Father.. wants us to revere and respect. God sent his son to the nation Israel as their Messiah. The Wedding was a picture of a great celebration that was to be given to those who accept the invitation to be his people, his spiritual bride. The nation rejected Jesus the groom and would not accept his invitation. God the Father was very angry and sent out an invitation to all people and nations to come into his Kingdom and receive His son. We are invited to the wedding because the citizens hated him.

Those who reject him .. will be punished..

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish [from] the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed [are] all they that put their trust in him.

God the Father ordained His son to rule this planet. He is not an elected official.. he is not a politician.. he is a sovereign ruler. Today we have no concept of this type of government.

Our political system is the basest and most corrupt form of government there can be. It is represented in the book of Daniel of a system made up of clay and iron. The weakest form of government.

A sovereign kingdom is a pure form of government.. If you remember Nebuchadnezzar's vision, Babylon's sovereign domain was likened to gold, Media

Persian government was silver, than the Grecian government was brass.. then Rome was Iron and the end time governments (LIKE OURS) iron mixed with clay.

So today we despise dominion, we reject authority, we speak evil of dignities. So we see people who have no idea of the power of a sovereign King and reject Jesus. So to reject God's Messiah is bring upon themselves wrath from on high.

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

To reject God's son is bring the wrath of God down upon yourself.

The good news is that we can repent of this sin and receive Christ and be saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

III. A PERSON WHO LOVES NOT THE LORD JESUS IS ANATAHMA BECAUSE HE HAS TRODDEN UNDER FOOT THE NEW COVENANT SACRIFICE FOR SINS..

Hebrews 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

Hebrews 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

Hebrews 10:28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Hebrews 10:30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance [belongeth] unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Hebrews 10:31 [It is] a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

We read about God's judgment in the old testament against the children of Israel. The Bible says a worse judgment comes all all those who reject the messenger of the New Covenant..

This prophet is predicted in the days of Moses, and the Bible says if people will not listen to him he will require of them. In others words they will be Anathema!

Deuteronomy 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deuteronomy 18:19 And it shall come to pass, [that] whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require [it] of him.

The New Testament is a far greater covenant than the Old Testament.

Jesus is the messenger of the New Covenant and to not love and receive him to to place yourself under a curse..

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

IV. THOSE WHO LOVE NOT THE LORD JESUS ARE CURSED.. BECAUSE HE IS THE HEIR OF THIS PLANET..

Matthew 21:33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

Matthew 21:34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

Matthew 21:35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

Matthew 21:36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

Matthew 21:37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

Matthew 21:38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

Matthew 21:39 And they caught him, and cast [him] out of the vineyard, and slew [him].

Matthew 21:40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

Matthew 21:41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out [his] vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

Jesus is Lord over planet earth. The Earth is his vineyard, along with the nation Israel. Earth is his footstool. Those who reject Christ, align themselves with this group of people that this parable talks about.

The princes of this world wanted authority over God's vineyard, and in essence this is why our Lord was crucified by them.

I Corinthians 2:6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

I Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, [even] the hidden [wisdom], which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

I Corinthians 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The rulers of this world thought by killing Jesus, they would then be able to rule over God's heritage. God turned the tables on them and in fact his death was the very thing he used to gain full dominion legally over this planet and to redeem us to God as citizens of this new Kingdom.

I Corinthians 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known [it], they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this [man] to reign over us.

So the greatest thing we can do in this life is to show our gratefulness to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To hate him is to place ourselves under a curse.

V. CONCLUSION:

What is salvation but receiving God's son..
Damnation is rejecting the son..

Any sin can be forgiven.. but the sin of rejecting Christ..
This is why the devil works so hard to get people to blaspheme his holy name.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue:
John 12:43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

And when Jesus came.. they crucified him..
They murdered him..

So this is why a person is Anathama if they do not love Jesus

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

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PARDON FOR THE PERSON WHO REJECTS HIS GIFT.. AND THE GIFT GIVER!

II. A PERSON WHO LOVES NOT THE LORD IS CURSED BECAUSE GOD IS ANGRY WITH THOSE WHO REJECT HIS SON.

III. A PERSON WHO LOVES NOT THE LORD JESUS IS ANATAHMA BECAUSE HE HAS TRODDEN UNDER FOOT THE NEW COVENANT SACRIFICE FOR SINS..

IV. A PERSON WHO LOVES NOT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS ACURSED BECAUSE HE IS THE HEIR OF THIS PLANET..

**ASPECTS OF LOVING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
THOSE WHO DO LOVE THE LORD JESUS ARE BLESSED
JUST HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE HIM?**

Intro:

This morning we said, that there is a curse on everyone who will not love the Lord Jesus. Now if that is true and it is .. then it would seem to be that there is a blessing on all those who love the Lord. My question is just how much do you love Him?

Matthew 22:35 Then one of them, [which was] a lawyer, asked [him a question], tempting him, and saying,

Matthew 22:36 Master, which [is] the great commandment in the law?

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

This morning in Sunday School our Text was this:

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

SO THOSE WHO DO LOVE THE LORD ARE BLESSED

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

John 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE GOD? HOW BIG A BLESSING DO YOU WANT!

I. WE ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE GOD WITH OUR WHOLE BEING ...

With all our hearts...

With all our souls..

With all our minds..

HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE GOD?

II. OUR LOVE FOR GOD NEEDS TO BE FIRST AND FORMOST IN OUR LIVES

Lovest thou me more than these..
More than these?

HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE GOD?

III. WE SHOULD LOVE HIM ENOUGH TO OBEY HIM!

Feed my sheep...

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE GOD

HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE GOD?

I. WE ARE COMMANDED TO LOVE GOD WITH OUR WHOLE BEING ...

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Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

What is the great commandment?

Here is a lawyer.. and you would think as a lawyer.. he would ask the Lord.. a difficult question..

We read this and think it is not such a difficult question.. but we can think that now because we have read this verse over and over.. today.. we don't think it so difficult..

Imagine the day that this lawyer asked this question....

The Jews had made a science of the law.. and so much of it seemed complicated and overly difficult.. This is why we need a lawyer... Imagine.. the Jews thinking they needed lawyers to understand the law of God.. We know we need a lawyer to understand human law.. why beaus there are so many laws and so many interpretations of the law.. that a common person finds it hard to know what to do..

Today if you want to dig a hole on your property you feel you need a lawyer..
If you want to build a shed on your property you feel you need a lawyer..

This lawyer.. did not even know what was the most important commandment in the Bible..

It is pretty bad when you hire a lawyer and he doesn't even know the law..

The adulterer.. would be stoned .. if caught.. Just what was adultery? Clinton was a lawyer and he didn't know..

The murderer.. also would be put to death.. what constituted murder?

The Sabbath was to be obeyed.. each week.. When did it start?
On and on you could go with ceremonial law and all the rest..
Certainly these are what the Lawyer had in mind...

But now the Lord.. circumvents .. all these commands and gets to the root of the matter..

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:38 This is the first and great commandment.

Matthew 22:39 And the second [is] like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

When our Lord taught.. it was so clear.. you suddenly realized you don't need a lawyer to understand what God says in his word..

For years.. the church (i.e. The Roman Catholic Church taught common people could not understand the Bible.. So it was not translated into the vernacular of the people)
When the reformation came, it came because people were given the Bible in their own language and allowed to read it for themselves..)

Much of the Scripture is easy to understand... it is the religious leaders who complicate it..

Jesus was clear the greatest command is that we should love God..
But note not that we should love God.. for most people have some love for God..
But Notice what he said about HOW MUCH WE SHOULD LOVE GOD!!!!

NOTE.. HOW MUCH SHOULD WE LOVE GOD?

1. With all our hearts... Notice.. he did not say in speech ..

***Nor with some of our hearts.. But with all of our hearts..
It is easy to say we love God.. Words are cheap***

We should not only love God because it is our duty to love God..
We should love God and desire.. to love GOD!!! With all our hearts & souls.

- 2. With all our souls..
Our Love for God.. should permeate our very lives..
It should be evident in the way that we live that we love God***
- 3. With all our minds..
Our love for God.. should permeate our very minds..
He should be in our thought life.. When he is on our minds we will
Think of him.. often in our minds will meditate in his word.. etc.***

HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE GOD?

II. OUR LOVE FOR GOD NEEDS TO BE FIRST AND FORMOST IN OUR LIVES

Lovest thou me more than these..
More than these?

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

The Lord.. asked Peter.. if he loved him more than these..

Many different interpretations concerning the comparison.. phrase..
MORE THAN THESE..

WHAT ARE THE THESE ? In John 21:15

- 1. Some say the Lord was referring to the other disciples.
More than John or James..***

ONE TIME PETER BRAGGED..

Peter at one time said.. though all forsake you Lord.. I will not.. because...

I love you more.
I Am More dedicated!

- 2. Some say the these are the activity of fishing.. his career..
fishing.. apparently Peter was thinking he was washed up as an
Apostle and he thought he would go back to his old trade..***

There is a point that could be made.. here..

We should love the Lord more than anything else..
We should love the Lord more than anyone else!

How much do we love the Lord?

**3. God expects us to love him more than _____
Fill in the blank!**

How sad it is that people put so many things before their love for God..

People..
Carriers..
Money..
Pleasure..

This is nothing short of Idolatry..

Much of the world is given to Idolatry..

It is only reasonable that we should love God more than anyone or anything .. after all he is the one that created all things..

Fellow came to me after I preached on this subject..
He said.. I don't think I can really love God more than my family..

HOW MUCH DO WE LOVE GOD?

III. WE SHOULD LOVE HIM ENOUGH TO OBEY HIM!

Feed my sheep...

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

John 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he

said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Three times the Lord asked Peter if he loved him..

Much is made of the change over of words in this text..

In fact CS Lewis .. wrote a whole book entitles..

The 4 different loves..

In the Greek New Testament, there are three different words used which can be translated by the English word "love":

- * agapê (love, charity) and words derived from it
- * philia (friendship, love) and words derived from it
- * storgê (natural affection), only as astorgos
(lacking natural affection) in Ro.1:31 and 2Tim.3:3.
- * Eros Sensual Physical Love.

What is the Lord telling Peter?

He is saying Peter if you really love me..
Do what I want you to do..

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

How much do you love me .. Peter..

Lord he says you know I love you ..

THAN FEED MY SHEEP..

How can we prove we love the Lord?

NOTE: At one time Peter.. said.. he would not deny the Lord..
The Lord.. said.. before the cock crows twice you will
deny me three times..

Now three times.. the Lord asks if Peter Loves the lord..
Three times Peter says he loves him.. each time he says
FEED MY SHEEP!

Gill:

Peter was grieved, because he said unto him the third time, lovest thou me? because it put him in mind of his having denied his Lord three times; the remembrance of which cut him to the heart and it added to his grief, that his love, which he knew was unfeigned, notwithstanding his conduct, should seem to be suspected

How much do we love the Lord.. Maybe we say.. oh Lord yes I love you.
NOW THE LORD SAYS.. IF YOU LOVE ME..

Do for my people ...

What is the proof you love the Lord?
The proof is found in your obedience to him and doing for his people..

Maybe the Lord is saying to you..

DO YOU LOVE ME..	DON'T MISS CHURCH...
DO YOU LOVE ME..	TITHE.. SUPPORT MY MISSIONARIES
DO YOU LOVE ME..	SERVE ME TEACH A SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS..
DO YOU LOVE ME..	SING IN THE CHOIR..
DO YOU LOVE ME..	VISIT THE SICK..
DO YOU LOVE ME..	CLEAN MY CHURCH..
DO YOU LOVE ME..	PICK UP PEOPLE GIVE THEM A RIDE TO CHURCH..
DO YOU LOVE ME..	WITNESS TO YOUR FRIENDS..
DO YOU LOVE ME..	FEED MY SHEEP!!! That was Peter's ministry.
	WHAT IS YOUR MINISTRY?

WHAT IS GOD TELLING YOU TO DO FOR CHRIST'S SHEEP HIS CHURCH ? AS EVIDENCE OF YOUR LOVE FOR HIMSELF!!!

You say you love the Lord.. but you don't if you do not do for his sheep what he has commanded you to do..

NO YOU DON'T LOVE HIM.. IF YOU LOVE ME _____DO FOR ___ my Sheep

Here we had the lawyers.. Pharisees.. going around.. pretending they loved God.. because of all the religious things they did..

BUT ALL THEY DID WAS BUT A SHOW..
ALL THAT THEY DID.. WAS A LIE!!!

6-25-23 EVENING
ASPECTS OF LOVING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
THOSE WHO TRULLY LOVE CHRIST WILL SERVE HIM

It is only reasonable that if we love Jesus Christ that we will want to serve him.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.

II Corinthians 5:14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:
II Corinthians 5:15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Intro: This morning we asked the question? How much do you love Christ..

The Lord appeared to Peter.. and 3 times asked him if he loved him ..
He asked if he loved him more than .. _____

Then he said if you love me FEED MY SHEEP.. SERVE ME..

John 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

It is quite possible that in John 21: When the Lord appeared to Peter.. that he had lost all hope and vision for preaching..

Certainly doing God's work is a battle and we are at war with the prince of the power of the air. He is a master at trying to discourage people. He works on our minds.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Satan had worked overtime in Peter's heart and mind and the Lord appeared to him personally to restore him to service..

As we learned this morning.. Jesus approached Peter and asked if he loved him..

John 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, [son] of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.
ETC ETC....

Our obedience to Christ is the evidence of our Love..

John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.

This evening we are going to look at the Apostle Paul as a great example of a man that was constrained by the love of Christ to obey his call to preach to others..

INTRO:

First of all consider what our Lord said about the motivational factor that usually causes a person to love him..

I. THE BIBLE SAYS CLEARLY THAT A PERSON'S LOVE FOR GOD.. IS BASED ON HIS PERCEPTION OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE FOR THEM!

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Luke 7:39 Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw [it], he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman [this is] that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

Luke 7:40 And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

Luke 7:41 There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Luke 7:42 And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

Luke 7:43 Simon answered and said, I suppose that [he], to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

Luke 7:44 And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped [them] with the hairs of her head.

Luke 7:45 Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

Luke 7:46 My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loveth little.

Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.

Luke 7:49 And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?

How do you perceive what it took Christ to save you?

If you perceive it kind of matter of fact.. some small transaction in the judicial courts of heaven.. then your love for Christ will be just matter of fact..

Luke 7:47 Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, [the same] loveth little.

Remember the woman at the well... notice her motivation for witnessing..

John 4:17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

John 4:18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

John 4:26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am [he].

John 4:28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

John 4:29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

John 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and [then] cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

John 4:36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

John 4:37 And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

John 4:38 I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

What motivated her to do such a work and go and witness to her whole city. She had more zeal than the Apostles.

II. PAUL WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A MAN WHO HAD GREAT LOVE BECAUSE HE PERCEIVED IT TOOK GREAT FORGIVENESS TO SAVE HIM

I Timothy 1:15 This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

I Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

I Corinthians 15:9 For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

I Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which [was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

CAN WE EVER FORGET WHAT IT TOOK FOR CHRIST TO SAVE US??
HE THAT HAS BEEN FORGIVEN MUCH THE SAME LOVETH MUCH ..

One of the reasons it may be that most Christians win more people the first few years that they are saved.. than the rest of their Christian experience is that the forgiveness.. and gift that they received in Christ is then just fresh on their minds...

SO THEY PERCEIVE THEY HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN MUCH...

III. WE SHOULD FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL IN HIS VISION FOR SERVICE AND A BURDON FOR THE LOST..

CAN ANY OF US SAY WE ARE SERVING CHRIST LIKE THE APOSTLE PAUL DID..

I WONDER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THIS CHURCH IF EVEN A FEW OF US.. GOT ON FIRE TO SERVE THE LORD LIKE THE APOSTLE PAUL DID!!!!

CONSIDER PAUL'S BURDEN AND ZEAL MOTIVATED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST..

1. CONSIDER PAULS LOVE AND BURDON FOR THE LOST..

Romans 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

Romans 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

Romans 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Romans 9:4 Who are Israelites; to whom [pertaineth] the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service [of God], and the promises;

I had a friend by the name of Eddie Mormando in 1973 we used to call him Eddie the Shoemaker.. he gave me a poem in 1973 just before I got saved... and asked if I would write a song to it.. He said he wrote it..

Did you know that God above
Created you for me to love
He picked you out from all the rest
Because He knew I'd love you best
I once had a heart, and it was true
But now it's gone from me to you
Take care of it, as I have done
For now you have two and I have none
When I get to heaven and you're not there
I'll print your name on the golden stair
So all the angels can come and see
Just how much you mean to me,
And if you're not there on judgment day
I'll know you've gone back the other way
So I'll give the angels back their wings,
Their Golden Halos and everything
And just to show you, I love you
I'd even go to Hell for you

Now before I was saved when my buddy gave me this poem to set to music.. I read it and threw it down and so .. WOW.. No woman is worth going to Hell for. I said I can't write song to those words.. Do you know someone picked up this poem in 1975, a fellow by the name of Don Ho the year after I got saved he set it to music and recorded it and it was a semi hit. Don Ho had a few hit records.. Where he got the lyrics I do not know but Eddie Mormando gave them to me a hand written piece of paper in 1973. I know he went to prison after that and who knows how many other people he gave the Lyrics to and it is quite possible they made their way to this fellow Don Ho in Hawaii..

Now the lyrics creeped me out because at the time I was thinking about Heaven and Hell. Peter Accardi had witnessed to me and I was thinking about my soul and if it was worth selling my soul out to stay in the music field.

But Paul had such a love for his nation he said.. if it were possible he would suffer hell for them.

Consider what Paul said..

He had such a great love and burden for his people he said he would if he could take their place in Hell if they would receive Christ.. and be saved..

Note.. Paul manifested in his life that he was telling the truth..

Note what he suffered in his life to preach and obey his calling to be a preacher..

II Corinthians 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I [am] more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

II Corinthians 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I forty [stripes] save one.

II Corinthians 11:25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

II Corinthians 11:26 [In] journeyings often, [in] perils of waters, [in] perils of robbers, [in] perils by [mine own] countrymen, [in] perils by the heathen, [in] perils in the city, [in] perils in the wilderness, [in] perils in the sea, [in] perils among false brethren;

II Corinthians 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

II Corinthians 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

What motivated Paul to preach and serve like he did?

He perceived in Christ he was forgiven much and so he loved much..

2. NOT ONLY DID PAUL HAVE A BURDEN FOR THE LOST BUT HE HAD A BURDEN FOR GOD'S PEOPLE TO GET RIGHT

IF WE LOVE CHRIST WE WILL HAVE A BURDEN THAT PEOPLE GET RIGHT WITH HIM

II Corinthians 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

II Corinthians 5:12 For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to [answer] them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

II Corinthians 5:13 For whether we be beside ourselves, [it is] to God: or whether we be sober, [it is] for your cause.

II Corinthians 5:14 **For the love of Christ constraineth us**; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

II Corinthians 5:15 And [that] he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Paul not only was burdened for people to get saved..

Paul was burdened for people to live for God..

Paul worked tirelessly to encourage the churches and believers to dedicate themselves to Christ..

He was totally motivated by the love of Christ.. to do so..

IV. IN CONTRAST TO PAUL IS THE EXAMPLE OF JONAH WHO PREACHED OUT OF NECESSITY

1. JONAH ACTUALLY RAN FROM GOD'S CALL TO PREACH TO THE NINIVITES

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,
Jonah 1:2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

Jonah 1:3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

To this day.. have you ever been witnessed to by a Jew?

They were suppose to evangelize, but what is their message.. where is their burden?

Jonah was asleep in the ship, and couldn't care less about the sailors or the Ninevites, or it seems anyone.

Jonah 1:5 Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that [were] in the ship into the sea, to lighten [it] of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep.

Jonah 1:6 So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not.

Jonah 1:7 And they said every one to his fellow, Come, and let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this evil [is] upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah.

Jonah 1:11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

Jonah 1:12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest [is] upon you.

Jonah 1:15 So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.

Jonah 1:17 Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah 2:1 Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly,

Jonah 2:10 And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry [land].

Jonah 3:1 And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the second time, saying,

Jonah 3:2 Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

Jonah 3:3 So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey.

Jonah 3:4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

Jonah 3:5 So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

Jonah 3:6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered [him] with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

Jonah 3:10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did [it] not.

Jonah 4:1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

2. WHERE IS HIS LOVE? He certainly did not have any for these lost gentiles...

In fact Jonah had more love for a lousy gourd that perished because of the worm.. than he did for the people of Nineveh.

Jonah 4:9 And God said to Jonah, Doest thou well to be angry for the gourd? And he said, I do well to be angry, [even] unto death.

Jonah 4:10 Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:

3. THE LORD APPEALED TO JONAH'S SENSE OF COMPASSION

Jonah 4:11 And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and [also] much cattle?

Jonah... he could have said.. where is your compassion?
Where is your love?

CONCLUSION

PAUL UNDERSTOOD THE NECESSITY OF HIS CALL AND MISSION...

I Corinthians 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

I Corinthians 9:17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation [of the gospel] is committed unto me.

I Corinthians 9:18 What is my reward then? [Verily] that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

Paul said.. whether I preach out of duty, like Jonah..

Or

If I do it willing out of love and compassion.. still the end result is that the message gets out and hopefully some are saved..

Philippians 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

Philippians 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

Philippians 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

Philippians 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

Romans 10:14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

Romans 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

In a few weeks we have our special meetings.. Maybe you have lost your burden for soul winning.. that is not good.. but .. let me suggest that it is our duty to witness..

Whether you are like Jonah.. or like Paul..

We need to pray for revival..

In a few weeks we have our tabernacle meetings.. this would be a good time to show your love Christ and your love for the lost and God's people. Let's be his messengers, let's be his servants..

Oh that some would come and some would be saved..