

If You Love Me

Scripture Text:

The word “love” appears some 442 times in the Bible and love is one of the first things that we learn both in life and in the Bible itself.

The “Golden Text” of the Bible, John 3:16, showcases to the world the true love of God. When we really stop and consider just how much God loves us, we should be always willing to do all that God demands.

This morning, let us examine this phrase – “If You Love Me”

1. Exodus 20:6

- a. Context: God giving the Ten Commandments
 - i. God is giving His people His instructions on how to live
 - ii. They are not difficult to understand – I John 5:2-4
 1. People in the world today claim some are difficult but they say that because it clashes against their sinful lifestyle.
 2. For example, the one that loves having sex with every person he meets finds passages like Matthew 5:27 difficult.
 3. The one that enjoys playing the lottery finds passages like Matthew 6:24, Ephesians 4:28, I Timothy 6:10, etc., difficult.
 4. These passages would be so called ‘difficult’ because it causes them to stop n activity that they so enjoy. However, if we are in something that separates us from God, we would do well to remove it from our lives.
- b. Result of Love
 - i. God gives them a promise – they will receive mercy.
 1. Romans 5:8-9
 2. We would be lost without the mercy of God!
 - ii. All of His promises are kept
 1. From the very beginning with Adam, Noah, Abraham, etc., to today
 2. One we are waiting on: the promise of the return visit of His Son
 - iii. Caveat: keeping His commandments.
- c. Deut. 5:10
 - i. In the second giving of the law, this same promise is given, or reiterated.
 - ii. In the Old Testament, God is simple: love Him and keep His commandments to receive His blessings.

2. John 14:15 – A Lesson in Greek

- a. “IF” – 2 kinds of “if” in the New Testament
 - i. “IF” – EI (I) – maybe you are, maybe you aren’t.
 1. Mt. 4:3, Mt. 4:6
 2. Not certain about his answer
 - ii. “IF” – EAN (eh-an) – Since, because of, if so.
 1. Mt. 4:9, Jn. 14:15
 2. True without a shadow of a doubt

- b. "Love"
 - i. Four different kinds of love in the Greek
 1. Agape – love, especially charity
 2. Eros – love, mostly of the sexual passion
 3. Phillia – affectionate regard, friendship. (Philadelphia, the "city of brotherly love")
 4. Storge – familial love
 - ii. In the Greek, simply to love [agape] in John 14:15
 - iii. In other words, if we simply love God, we will keep His commandments
- c. "Keep"
 - i. TEREIO (TAY-REH'-O) – to guard from loss or injury and also meaning a military line or apparatus.
 - ii. When we are keeping God's commands, we are doing them all and not letting them go.
 - iii. We do not have a choice of which of God's commands we choose to keep and disregard:
 1. Matthew 7:21-23 – no cafeteria style religion
 2. Faithful people of God have always been command keepers

3. John 21:15-18

- a. These events occur after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus
 - i. Important to note that before Jesus was tried, Peter claimed that come what may, he would not forsake the Lord and then he denied Jesus thrice.
 - ii. Shortly following this, all the disciples fled.
 - iii. Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75
 - iv. When Peter made his third denial, he saw Christ and left and wept bitterly.
- b. John 21
 - i. Imagine the thoughts going through Peter's mind
 1. 1st time: maybe it wasn't so bad, maybe it didn't all click
 2. 2nd time: potentially starting to catch on
 3. 3rd time: cuts to the heart
 - ii. Peter denied Christ thrice and now he is questioned by Christ thrice to prove a point.
- c. "Lovest Thou Me, More than These, Feed My Sheep" song

If we daily love Jesus and truly love Jesus, we will keep His Commandments & Feed His Sheep: Daily living as a Christian

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