

Love For God By Mike Johnson

The Bible teaches that we are to love God. Matthew 22 reveals a case where some Pharisees were questioning Jesus. A scribe asked Him what the greatest commandment was. In verse 37 Jesus replied, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." We are to totally and completely love God. When we consider all that God has done for us and the great love that He has for us, then loving Him should not be difficult. (Rom. 5:7-8; John 3:16).

What does it really mean to love God? Many people claim to love Him. We are told, however, in 1John 5:3, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." Thus, the person who really loves God is the one who will obey His commands. True love for God is not a mere sentiment; it is practical. Real love for God is not just an empty expression of the fact, as the one who really loves God will obey Him. Jesus also expressed this idea in John 14:15 when He said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Many people today say that they love God, but really do not as they do not keep His commandments. Do we really love God? The answer can be seen in our lives.

What Will We Sound Like On Judgment Day? By Carol Strum

I remember a dear patient of mine was sent to the nursing home. He was a nice man whose body had become weakened and dementia was setting in. No longer able to walk, he needed assistance to get into his wheelchair. He had come to the point of life of giving up his car for a wheelchair. This was his ride now. He no longer had his farm, either; only a lonely room in a nursing home. He spoke frequently to me of his farm with pride. He had no family; at least, they never visited. His family now was the staff at the nursing home. He spoke often of his chickens. An aide bought him a beautiful, colorful, feathered chicken to set on his dresser. Besides a few clothes, this is all the man had to his name.

Now as the evening became very busy with the aides answering the call lights taking residents to the showers or giving bed baths, and the nurses passing meds and doing dressing changes, etc., my patient became very agitated because no one would get him in bed first. He finally became belligerent and began to scream, "I don't know why the judge sent me to this place. I never bothered anyone. I minded my own business on my farm. The only thing I ever did was take my chickens to chicken fights." Well, we finally got him into bed, and it took a while, but he fell asleep.

Now I have never been to a chicken fight, but I can only imagine the drinking, the bad language, and the gambling that took place.

After meds were passed, patients quieted down and fell asleep. This episode bothered me. It sounded as if my patient was pleading his case or his life's innocence. I pondered on this and I had to wonder, what will we sound like to God on the Judgment Day?

Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to

Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

I just pray our Lord finds us as faithful as we think we are on the Judgment Day.

Door Knocking

By Mark Jamieson

Leon Estep, who for several years produced the Open Bible Study materials, says that the latest polling information places less than 2 percent of current Christians having been reached by door knocking. Statistics claim that you have to knock on average 95-140 doors to set up one Bible study. Of those Bible studies, on average it takes between 7-10 individuals to get one baptism. In essence, you have to knock between 700 and 1000 doors to get one baptism. Not good odds.

On the contrary, 73 percent of current Christians were reached by friends and family members. This means that our fields are in our own back yards. People in today's culture will usually study only with someone they trust. Educating members to recognize opportunities to invite and encourage friends and family is crucial.

I in no way minimize the importance of the 2 percent. Their souls are invaluable to our Lord; He died for them. However, we are also stewards of our time and resources. Should we spend the majority of our time on 2 percent or on 73 percent?

I don't believe in America it (the ineffectiveness of door knocking - prb) is so much due to hostility toward the gospel, as it is hostility toward those we associate with door knocking - Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and others. Door knocking was once effective. Times have changed. We must never change the message, but we have to change our approach to the situation in which we find ourselves.

C. S. Lewis

The death of C. S. Lewis on November 22, 1963, has long been overshadowed by the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on the same day. While the anniversary of Lewis' death rarely makes the headlines, the worldwide impact of this British scholar, teacher, and author continues to grow 40 years after his passing. His books sell more than 3 million copies a year and the most famous, *Mere Christianity*, *The Screwtape Letters*, and *The Chronicles Of Narnia*, have been reprinted several dozen times.

Converted as an adult, Lewis put his keen mind and imagination to work in the service of his faith. As a well-known writer and speaker, he continued a simple lifestyle. Michael Nelson wrote in the *International Herald Tribune*: "Two-thirds of his book royalties were earmarked for charities. He never traveled abroad, even when fame brought invitations to lecture from around the world."

Lewis exemplified humble service, generosity, and steadfast labor for the balance of his life. It is ironic, but not unexpected, that the world chooses a Kennedy to remember and imitate while a Lewis goes unnoticed. But that is how Lewis would have wanted it. Historians keep the subjective records on earth for a few years; God keeps the accurate records in heaven until Judgment Day.

A Moments Wisdom

Get happiness out of your work or you may never know what happiness is.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

I am still determined to be cheerful and happy, in whatever situation I may be; for I have also learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends upon our dispositions, and not upon our circumstances.

Tell a person they are brave and you help them become so.

Pessimist: One who, when he has the choice of two evils, chooses both.

You can overcome anything if you don't bellyache.

Tomorrow is often the busiest day of the week.