

LEARN TO LOVE GOD'S WORD

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What did Jesus mean when He said to Peter: lovest thou Me more than these? (John 21:15). The love of God toward us portrays a very good picture, as to how we as His followers ought to learn to love His word. Consider all the evil attitudes of human beings, which the result suppose to be eternal death-Romans 6:23, and yet John 3:16 reads: "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish(destroy) but have everlasting life."

This portion of the Bible is saying that, if the armed robber, prostitute, etc. believes and repents, he or she would be saved. This is how God demonstrates His love toward us. Do we as humans also love the word of God the same way? Many people hate part of God's word, they speak against them, but hypocritically, they make people believe that they love the word of God. The wise King laments over this: "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but kisses of an enemy are deceitful" (Proverbs 27:6). Exactly that was what Judas Iscariot did to Jesus Christ our Saviour, "And while He (Jesus) yet spake, Judas one of the twelve came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed Him gave them a sign saying, whomsoever I SHALL KISS, that same is He, hold Him fast. And forthwith, he came to Jesus and said Hail Master; and kissed Him. And Jesus said unto him, friend, wherefore art thou come?" (Matthew 26:47-50). Was such kiss a love kiss? and was Judas a proper friend, according to verse 50? Look at how the Good News reads Proverbs 27:6 once again, and make your own judgment concerning Matthew 26:47-50. Friends mean well even when they hurt you, but when an enemy puts an arm around your shoulder, watch out; Think about it!

Back to what Jesus asked Peter, where do we stand? Jesus said to Peter, "Simon, son of Jon as lovest thou Me more than these? He said unto Him, yea Lord, Thou knowest that I love Thee, He saith unto him, feed My lambs" (John 21: 15).

Do we know that Jesus is the same as the Word we are told to love? "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth" (John 1:1-3,14). Therefore loving the Word of God has reference to the scriptures and Jesus Christ as well. He is the Word and the Word is Jesus.

For us to understand learning to love God's Word, let me pause and ask, what is Love? In Strong's number 158 of the Hebrew word, it says; Affection-(feelings) in a good or bad sense. Example; David preferred Absalom to live, while he David died even though Absalom plotted to kill his father. 2nd Samuel 19:6(b). Sampson also broke the covenant between him and God, all in the name of love (Judges 14:16,17). A real loved person does not run away when sickness, troubles, problems and the like raise it's ugly head. [See John 11 :3].

The Greek word for love is 'agape'. It means; to love in social or moral sense. This kind of love is understood by marital couples. Others have said agape love is "deep outgoing concern." To show love to someone or something, sometimes sound foolish in the eyes of others, simple because not all your lovers idea and ways may seem good to your likeness, but to show real love, you cannot go contrary to his or her rules and principles. What picture am I portraying? Some of God's commandments are not pleasant, not to our liking, and seems bitter physically. But what do we do? Do we kick against them, does that show love? I believe it was not easy for Abraham, when he was told by God to sacrifice his only promised son Isaac-Gen 22:2. Yet Abraham proved that, he loved God and His Word. Verse 3 declares: "And Abraham rose up early in the morning(look at the zeal, the enthusiasm) and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and calve the wood for the burnt offering and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him." Can you and I also do the

same? We can only do it if we love His Word. Like the prophet Hosea who was asked to marry of whoredom, and he just went and did that by taking Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim who conceived and bare him a son (Hosea 1: 1-3).

The persecuted for Jesus's sake have shown that, they really loved His Word, and there is a good reward awaiting them. "And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left his house or brethren, or sisters, father or mother, or wife, or children, lands, for My sake and the gospels, But he shall receive an hundred fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." Our motive of loving His Word is eternal life and it is connected in these verses.

Apostle Paul said: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Do you love God's word according to His purpose? Then everything will work together for you. And we can understand God's purpose, if we allow ourselves to be rebuked by God. 📖

VERSES TO THINK ABOUT!

Heb 12:5-11

5 And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

7 If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?

8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

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