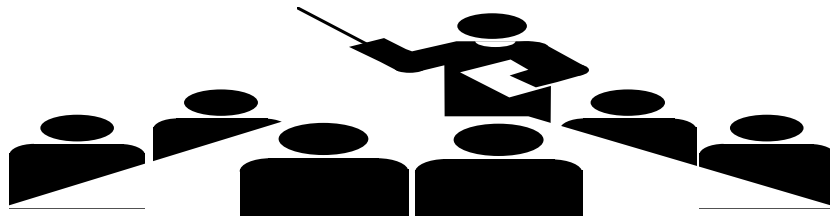


BIBLE STUDY SERIES



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God's Love

Bible Study

Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

Theme: “God’s Love”

Session #1: **God’s Love for Sinners**

Scripture: Romans 5: 1-11

PROPOSITION: God demonstrated His love for us as sinners by Christ’s sacrificial death.

I. Because of God’s love, when we were guilty, Christ justified us by faith. (Romans 5:1-5)

- A. We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. We have access into grace.
- C. We have much to rejoice about
 - 1. We can rejoice in the hope of sharing in God’ glory.
 - 2. We can rejoice in our troubles and trials
 - a. The troubles and trials produce patience in us and help us learn endurance.
 - b. The patience develops strength of character in us.
 - c. The character produces hope and strengthens our confident expectation of salvation.
 - d. The hope and confident expectation will never disappoint us or make us ashamed.
 - 3. We can rejoice in the fact that God has filled our hearts with His love through the Holy Spirit.

II. Because of God’s love, when we were utterly helpless, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:6-7)

- A. Christ died for us when we were unable to help ourselves.
- B. Christ died for us just at the right time and in our moment of greatest need.
- C. Christ died for us although we were living ungodly lives.
- D. Christ died for us when few, if anyone one would die for a good person.

III. Because of God’s love, when we were sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8-9)

- A. Christ died for us to demonstrate God’s great love for us.
- B. Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.
- C. Christ died for us in order to justify us and make us right with God.
- D. Christ died for us in order to deliver us from the wrath of God.

IV. Because of God’s love, when we were God’s enemies, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:10-11)

- A. Christ died for us while we were enemies of God.
- B. Christ died for us in order to reconcile of with God and make us His friends.
 - 1. As God’s friends we will be saved from eternal punishment by His life.
 - 2. As God’s friends we can enjoy our wonderful new relationship with God.

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Session #2: God’s Love for Believers

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-11

PROPOSITION: God demonstrated His love for us as believers by giving us every thing that we need to live victoriously in Christ.

I. He gives us a cloud of witnesses to cheer us on. (Hebrews 12:1)

- A. They have completed their races.
- B. They have passed the baton on to us.
- C. They are cheering us on and encouraging us.
 - 1. To strip off every weight that slows us down
 - 2. To strip off every sin that so easily hinders our progress
 - 3. To run with endurance the race that God has set before us

II. He gives us Jesus as our ultimate example. (Hebrews 12:2-4)

- A. We must keep our eyes on Jesus.
 - 1. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith.
 - a. He is the One who inspires our faith.
 - b. He is the One who perfects our faith.
 - 2. He is the perfect sacrifice for our sins and because of the joy of bringing us salvation.
 - a. He suffered death on the cross.
 - b. He accepted the shame of it.
 - c. He sat down in the place of highest honor beside God’s throne in heaven.
- B. We must remember His example.
 - 1. He held on while wicked people were doing evil things to him.
 - 2. We must not become weary, discouraged, or give up.
 - 3. We have not yet given our lives in the struggle against sin.

III. He gives us His fatherly discipline to train us to become like Him. (Hebrews 12:5-11)

- A. God’s chastening comes not as a sign of His displeasure, but because He loves us.
 - 1. We must not resent God’s discipline, not be discouraged when he corrects us.
 - 2. We must recognize that God chastens those he loves and corrects every child that He receives.
- B. How we respond to God’s disciplines reveals the true nature of our relationship with God.
 - 1. If God disciplines us and we submit to it, then He is dealing with us as His children.
 - 2. If God never disciplines us, then we are not truly His children.
- C. When we submit to God’s discipline, it may be painful, but it profits us in many ways:
 - 1. We shall live eternally (forever).
 - 2. We shall be partakers of His holiness (His character).
 - 3. We shall evidence the fruit of righteousness (we will learn to live in the right way).

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Session #3: **God’s Love at Work in My Life**

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-18

PROPOSITION: God’s love transforms every area of our lives.

I. God’s love inspires us to seek purity of heart and life. (1 John 3:1-3)

- A. Because of God’s love we have become His children, even though the world does not recognize us.
- B. Because of God’s love we have the hope of seeing Christ and becoming like Him when He returns.
- C. Because of God’s love we have the goal of keeping ourselves pure like Christ.

II. God’s love delivers us from sins penalty and power. (1 John 3:4-6)

- A. When we sin we are breaking God’s law for all sin opposes the law of God.
- B. Christ came to take away sin’s penalty and power, because there is no sin in Him.
- C. When we are living in Christ we do not continue to sin.
- D. When we keep on sinning it proves that we do not know Christ and do not understand Him.

III. God’s love enables us to practice righteousness. (1 John 3:7-10)

- A. When we are righteous we practice righteousness, just as He is righteous.
- B. When we are of the devil we practice sin, just as the devil has been sinning from the beginning.
- C. The Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil.
- D. When we are born of God we cannot practice sin (keep on sinning)
 - 1. We cannot practice sin because we have God’s nature (seed) within us.
 - 2. We cannot practice sin because we have experienced a new birth.
- E. When we do not practice righteousness it shows that we are not God’s children.

IV. God’s love enables us to love others as He loves. (1 John 3:10-18)

- A. When we do not love others it shows that we are not God’s children.
 - 1. We should love each other, but when we are of the wicked one, like Cain was, we murder others.
 - 2. We murder others because our works are evil and theirs are righteous.
 - 3. We who are righteous should not be surprised if the world hates us.
- B. When we love others it shows that we have passed from death to life (spiritually).
 - 1. When we do not love others it means that we are still dead spiritually.
 - 2. When we hate others, we are just like murderers, and we do not have eternal life abiding in us.
- C. Christ demonstrated His love for us by laying down His life for us.
 - 1. The love of God should motivate us to lay down our lives for others.
 - 2. The love of God should motivate us to share our worldly goods with those who have needs.
 - 3. The love of God should motivate us to prove our love for others by our actions not just our words.

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Session #4: **God’s Love at Work in My Future**

Scripture: Romans 8:18-39

PROPOSITION: God’s love secures our future, both in this life and in the life to come.

- I. Because of God’s love, we can look forward to the day of our redemption. (Romans 8:18-25)**
- A. What we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later.
 - B. All creation waits for the day when God will reveal who His children really are.
 - C. All creation waits for the day when it will join God’s children in freedom from death and decay.
 - D. We who have God’s Spirit wait for the day when He will give us our full rights as His children.
 - 1. We will be released from pain and suffering.
 - 2. We will receive the new bodies that He promised us.
 - E. We eagerly look forward to this freedom and wait patiently and confidently for it.
- II. Because of God’s love, the Holy Spirit helps us in our times of weakness and distress. (Romans 8:26-27)**
- A. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us because we do not know how or for what to pray.
 - B. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us with groaning that cannot be expressed in words.
 - C. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in harmony with God’s will for our lives.
- III. Because of God’s love, everything will work together for our good when we love God and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28-30)**
- A. God knew those of us who would trust Christ for salvation before He made the world.
 - B. God chose that we would be like His Son, so that Jesus would be the firstborn of many brothers.
 - C. God called us to salvation, justified us (declared us right with Himself), and promised us His glory.
- IV. Because of God’s love, nothing can separate us from Christ’s love. (Romans 2:31-39)**
- A. If God is for us, who can ever be against us?
 - 1. God did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us.
 - 2. God, who gave us Christ, will also give us everything else.
 - B. Who can accuse or condemn us when God has chosen us?
 - 1. God will not since He is the One who has given us right standing with Himself.
 - 2. Christ will not since He is the One who died for us, was raised to life, and is pleading for us.
 - C. Can anything ever separate us from the love that Christ has for us?
 - 1. Can trouble, problems, persecutions, hunger, nakedness, danger, or violent death?
 - 2. Even the Scriptures say that we face death every day and are being slaughtered like sheep.
 - 3. But in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
 - 4. Nothing in life or death or in all creation shall be able to separate us from God’s love in Christ.

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Session #5: **The Ultimate Goal of God’s Love**

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-21

PROPOSITION: God’s ultimate goal is that His love be made perfect in us.

- I. When God’s love is made perfect in us, we love others as God loves us. (1 John 4:7-11)**
- A. We love others because love is from God.
 - B. We love others to show that we know God and are His children.
 - C. We love others because God is love.
 - D. God showed real love for us by sending His Son to take away our sins, so that we could have life.
 - E. If God loved us so much, we also should love each other and others.
- II. When God’s love is made perfect in us, we love others by His indwelling Spirit. (1 John 4:12-16)**
- A. We know that God lives in us and His love is perfected in us when we love each other.
 - B. We know that we live in God and that He lives in us, because He gave us His Spirit.
 - C. We know that God lives in us because we can testify that Jesus is God’s Son and Savior of the world.
 - D. We know that God lives in us and that we live in God because we live in God’s love.
- III. When God’s love is made perfect in us, we will not fear the day of judgement. (1 John 4:17-18)**
- A. When God’s love is perfected in us it drives out the fear of punishment.
 - B. God’s love is not perfected in us when we have a fear of punishment.
- IV. When God’s love is made perfect in us, we love both God and others. (1 John 4:19-21)**
- A. We love God because He first loved us.
 - B. We are lying when we say we love God, but hate others.
 - C. We cannot love God whom we have not seen, unless we love others who we see every day.
 - D. We who love God must also love others, that is God’s command.