

highest of priorities for our lives is the love and honor of God. This is said in many ways in Scripture, consider these few.

**Matthew 6:33** - 33 "But **seek first His kingdom and His righteousness**; and all these things shall be added to you. NASB

**Exodus 20:2-7** - 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. 3 "**You shall have no other gods before Me.** 4 "**You shall not make for yourself an idol**, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. 5 **You shall not worship them or serve them**; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 "**You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain**, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain. NASB

Consider how in commanding these things for us, to treasure Him first, God really does the greatest service to us because, in doing these things, we will ultimately be benefited more than any other thing because our value system will be transformed so that we assess our lives according to truth and reality, and make decisions according to God's heavenly wisdom! **God's gives us His commandments for our good!**

**Deuteronomy 10:12-14** - 12 "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but **to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the LORD'S commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good?** 14 "Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. NASB

### **Love What He Loves, Hate What He Hates**

How then can we cultivate affections for Christ? One very obvious way is to begin to value things which He assigns value to, and also to disdain things which He disdains. We begin to love Christ and value Him when we begin to see life as He sees it and begin to conform our lives to that which He values. When our value system becomes defined by His value system, He is then honored, esteemed and valued by us. It only stands to reason then, that we must come to know what He values and what He disdains. And this dear reader, is the great purpose that the Scripture fulfills in us. It causes us, by the power of the Spirit, to be transformed in our thinking so that we come to know what God loves and what He hates and what is His perfect and pleasing will!

**Romans 12:1-2** - I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* 2 And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.** NASB

So then, as we go to the Holy Scriptures each and every day, there we feed on the heavenly delights that God gives us by His Holy Word! We feed on the bread of Life, and we partake of God's wisdom, which causes us then to hunger and thirst for His righteousness and His Kingdom and His person like no other thing. The Scripture is pure revelation of God and His wisdom! So as we go to the Scripture, we seek for nuggets of truth, and morsels of heavenly wisdom that change us and cause us to become like Him. More and more being filled and blessed with His virtue, which we see revealed in all of its Glory in the revelation of Scripture. And this dear reader, is how we become blessed! In fact this is the state of being blessed, it is properly assessing God, His Kingdom, and His virtue so that we properly and appropriately see our world through the eyes of true wisdom from the Creator God, who made everything for His own purpose and for His own glory!

**Psalms 1:1-3** - **How blessed is the man** who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2 But **his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.** 3 And he will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season, And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers. NASB

## How we may know that we love Christ

Consider that of all the things that God commanded us to do, the greatest is to love Him supremely, then this ought to be our response. Consider with me if God is the Sovereign, the Supreme Authority, if He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth, and He has given us high and holy commandments, our response should then be one of unwavering obedience. If a powerful earthly authority gives us a directive, what would we do? We would obey. How much more should we honor God with obedience to Him? Shall we rail against our maker? We had better be sure to obey God lest we be found to be rebels against our Sovereign Creator and our Righteous Judge! Jesus said,

**John 14:15 - 15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.** NASB

*"If"* you love me, *"you will"* keep my commandments. In other words, it will be plainly seen if you really love me when you obey my commandments. Love for Christ produces obedience to His commandments. If we look at our lives and see disobedience to Christ's commands, then we have good reason to question whether our love for Him is genuine.

**John 14:21-24 - He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me;** and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him." 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us, and not to the world?" 23 Jesus answered and said to him, **"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him. 24 **"He who does not love Me does not keep My words;** and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. NASB

If we truly love God we will in fact obey Him. This is how we prove our love for God, through our obedience to Him....

**1 John 5:3 - 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments;** and His commandments are not burdensome. NASB

Obedience to Christ is proof positive that we in fact love Him and honor Him from our hearts! We obey Him because we love Him and we know that His commands are what are best for us. But what are other ways that we can see that we love Christ? Consider these few .....

- **Christ will be the most engrossing subject of thought.** Are you enamored with thoughts of Christ? Does Christ occupy your thought life with intensity, or do you give your thoughts to lower earthly things?
- **Christ will be the attractive theme of conversation.** What do you spend your time talking about? The weather, sports or God forbid the latest gossip about other people? We know what is in our hearts by what flows out of our mouths.
- **Christ will be the source of the greatest delight in pleasing.** What is it that in your heart brings the most gladness to you? Do you treasure Christ more than anything else in the entire world? If you love Christ, He is your greatest delight!
- **The most transforming power of character.** Are you becoming like Him? If so, you can know that you love Him. Pursuing Christ results in becoming like Him!
- **If you love Christ, you love His cause.** That His kingdom may come, that people might be saved, that love would abound to every person is your great pursuit.
- **If you love Christ You love His people.** How can we say we love Christ and do not love His people. We know we love Christ by how well we love and serve His church!  
**1 John 5:1-2 - 1** Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and **whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.** 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. NASB
- **If you love Christ, you love His Word and His commandments.** Love for Christ is clearly seen in a great hunger and desire for His word.

Let us cultivate our love for Christ by seeking after Him and treasuring Him each and every day. Let us give serious thought on regular occasion to our love for Him and our devotion to Him!