

## **MONDAY**

### Introduction

**God's love for us is very great! Very very very great.** Immense would be a better word. Unfathomable, even better, more accurate. His love and goodness is so great it is hard to grasp. But the one true God, our Lord and King, is very misunderstood. Satan works hard to deceive us about God's real heart and character and goodness. One must read the book our God left for us and get to know Him to grasp the greatness of His love.

**The Lord gave us commands and guidelines for life on this earth because of His great love for us. His commands are meant to protect us and others, to lead us to the fullest and best life possible, and to secure for us an eternal home too wonderful to imagine.** We can begin to understand this in the Storyline of the Bible. In the beginning when God created mankind, He set him in a **perfect paradise** free of pain and suffering - a beautiful place filled with all mankind needed, where he could enjoy relationship with God and with other people. The Bible says man could walk and talk freely with God. **But man disobeyed God's instructions which led to much pain and toil and suffering for mankind as a result.**

#### **Monday, cont'd**

Even when God was merciful to rescue men and fulfill promises and give great blessings, men still disobeyed and hurt and harmed one another (just as we do). After thousands of years of this **failure**, the Lord sent a **solution** -- a promised Messiah (a deliverer). The long awaited Messiah provided a way for any person to be forgiven of our egregious rebellion against God and wrongdoing by taking the punishment we deserve. This made a way for us to be **delivered** of shame and destruction, **restored** to our created value and restored to God's blessings and promises. Once **forgiven**, we can receive the Holy Spirit within to be **empowered** to obey so that we can stop bringing all the pain and suffering on ourselves and others that comes as a result of our disregard for God's commands.

**BUT! you may say. Even when I obey God, I still suffer 'a plenty' at the hands of others! I suffer harm and hurt and injury and disappointment and grief!** Yes, unfortunately, this is the case because everyone disobeys God. But the commands and instructions God gives provide for us to walk in a great and wonderful "river of life" even in the midst of suffering, as we journey through a broken and imperfect world. As we make this journey in obedience to God's commands, we experience the very presence of God in the midst of it all, and the Lord's promises and deliverances and blessings continually. And there is more -- as we obey we are gradually made more and more into the **character of Christ**. We are not only restored to the beauty and value that the Lord originally created us with, but adorned with a growing strength and loveliness reflecting the beauty and glory of our Lord. **Our journey in this life is preparing us for the life to come.**

Here are a few of the important reasons to obey the Lord::

**Psalm 94:12-13**

12 **Blessed** is the one you discipline, Lord, the one you teach from your law;

13 you grant them **relief from days of trouble**, till a pit is dug for the wicked.

**Joshua 1:7-8**

7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, **that you may be successful wherever you go**. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. **Then you will be prosperous and successful**.

**Psalm 34:8-10**

8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; **blessed** is the one who takes refuge in him.

9 Fear the Lord, you his holy people, for **those who fear him lack nothing**.

10 The lions may grow weak and hungry, but **those who seek the Lord lack no good thing**.

**Tuesday, cont'd****Why Obey?**

**Matthew 7:24-25** "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; **yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock**.

**Psalm 1:1-6**

1 **Blessed** is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.

3 That person is **like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers**.

4 Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

6 **For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to destruction**.

## **WEDNESDAY**

### The Greatest Commandment

**For the remainder of this week's devotions,** we will focus on some of the key commands the Lord gives us to live by. We start with the greatest commandment.

#### **Matthew 22:35-39**

35b An expert in the law, tested him [Jesus] with this question: 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'<sup>a</sup> 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

## **THURSDAY**

### We should give constant attention to God's commands

There are many more commandments and instructions to live by, and that is why it is so **important to read the Bible daily** to become familiar with them. Then we **ask for the Holy Spirit's help in obeying** them; and **store them up in our hearts and minds** to protect us, lead us and guide us through every situation and choice we encounter.

#### Commands to be humble and fear God:

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.

**James 4:10** Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

#### **Proverbs 22:4-5**

Humility is the fear of the Lord; its wages are riches and honor and life.

**5** In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls,  
but those who would preserve their life stay far from them.

**Proverbs 1:7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,  
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

**Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**I John 2:15-17**

15 **Do not love the world or anything in the world.** If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. 16 For everything in the world—the **lust of the flesh**, the **lust of the eyes**, and the **pride of life**—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17 The world and its desires pass away, but **whoever does the will of God lives forever.**

**Ephesians 4**

<sup>17</sup>**So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.** <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. <sup>19</sup>Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. ...<sup>22</sup>**You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;** <sup>23</sup>**to be made new in the attitude of your minds;** <sup>24</sup>**and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.**

**Romans 12**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God... <sup>2</sup>Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed...

**II Timothy 2:22** Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

**Isaiah 5:20** Woe to those who call evil good and good evil

**Proverbs 1:10** My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.

## **SATURDAY**

### Commands to Treat Others Right

#### **Deuteronomy 5**

**16** “Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

**17** “You shall not murder.

**18** “You shall not commit adultery.

**19** “You shall not steal.

**20** “You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

**21** “You shall not covet

#### **Psalm 11:5**

The Lord examines the righteous  
but the wicked, those who love violence, he hates with a passion.

#### **Proverbs 6:16-20**

**16** There are six things the Lord hates— no, seven things he detests:

**17** haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent,

**18** a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong,

**19** a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord in a family.

## **SUNDAY**

### Commands to Forgive

#### **Matthew 6:15**

But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

#### **Mark 11:25**

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

#### **Matthew 18:21-22**

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

**22** Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times

#### **Matthew 18:34-35**

**34** In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

**35** “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

***LIFE CLUB***  
***DAILY SCRIPS***

**Obedience to God**