

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Giving God His due credit

Love the Lord Thy God

Bill Brinkworth

“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” Deut. 6:5

One of the main desires of God is that we love Him with all our being. Throughout the Bible, God tells us to love Him with all our heart because:

Loving God is a commandment and expectation of our Creator.

“But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Josuha 22:5 Also: Jos. 23:11.

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” Mt. 22:37 Also: Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27.

He is our strength, preserver, protector, and deliverer. Those are certainly reasons to love Him.

“I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.” Ps. 18:1 Also: Ps. 31:23, Ps. 97:10, Ps. 145:20.

He loves us, and He hears our pleas.

“I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications.” Ps. 116:1

He is faithful and merciful to keep His promises.

“Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;” Deut. 7:9

Loving God has many blessings, including a fruitful, longer life.

“In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.” Deut. 30:16 Also: Deut. 30:20.

God cannot be deceived. He knows who loves Him, and who wants to serve Him.

“Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” Deut. 13:3 Also: Ps. 119:159, Gal. 6:7, John 21:15-17, Isa. 56:6.

It should be easy to love God because He first loved us (I John 4:19). He created us and makes sure we have all we need to live and even to prosper. He is the only God there is, and we need to love Him for all He has done for us and will do. None of us deserves anything, yet God has blessed us so. For many reasons, we should, without difficulty, readily love Him back.

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 1:21

“The difference between God and man is God gives, gives, gives, and forgives, while man gets, gets, gets, but still forgets.” — Author Unknown

“It Wasn’t Us. It Was God!”

Bill Brinkworth

In Acts 3, it is found that the Holy Spirit used two disciples to perform a miracle. John and Peter told a lame man (Acts 3:2-8), who had been unable to walk since birth, to get up and walk — and the man did! Unused and weak legs were instantly transformed, and the man was healed. Not only was he able to walk, but his gratefulness could not be contained, and he leaped into the air and praised the Lord. That is why most miracles are performed, so that God will get the glory.

Soon, however, the word of the supernatural occurrence got around. According to what Peter said, the crowd gave the two men credit for the healing. Instantly Peter corrected

their error, "... why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our power or holiness we had made this man to walk".

God is still in the miracle performing business. When God does the impossible, it is always He that should be honored, never a man. The person used to do God's will is simply that, one that God used.

Unfortunately, the Healer and the Changer of the impossible often gets forgotten, and God seldom gets the glory for doing the incredible. People pray for an ailment or a bad situation to change. It is changed, but God does not get the credit. Others believe that a certain "man of God" can change the situation. The preacher's prayers are honored, and the man is sometimes revered as being responsible. Often little credit is given to God. The man, medicine, or objects are just the vehicles God uses. God is the only one that can change anything.

Has God answered prayer in your life? As little as the answer to a prayer or request may be, it still is a miracle. Did you thank God for answering your plea?

He Is Worthy to be Praised

"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. 3 I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved

from mine enemies. 4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid. 5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.” Ps. 18:1-6

“If God loved you as much as you love him, where would you be?” — *Author Unknown*

God Haters

Bill Brinkworth

“He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.” Proverbs 14:2

Proverbs 14:2 explains why a lot is happening in societies, politics, among our youth, in our public education system, and even in many churches. The verse exposes the motive behind so much irrational thinking and behaviors. It puts all the confusion, anger, rejection of centuries-old accepted beliefs, and desires for social changes in perspective. It gives an answer for what is happening around us. A growing population hates God, although they may not admit or realize it.

The root of much of the extreme hatred is not just because of other’s refusal to accept baby-butcherings abortions, homosexuality, who they vote for, what political party they

belong to, or even their adherence to old-fashioned morals and values. The defiance we are seeing is because people refuse to obey the Lord.

Their aversion may be taken out upon those with biblical standards and beliefs because their life-styles remind them of a God that requires them to live His way. Instead of obeying and being reminded of the convictions they have in their lives, they chose to remove all reminders of God's demands. They removed reading and reciting the Bible from schools decades ago. There was also an effort to remove prayer from wherever it was heard and eliminated any remnant of God's laws.

Those rebelling against God cannot take it out on Him, so they attack His messengers or anyone that reminds them of His laws and truths. It is God to whom they are defiant.

The God-haters do not want Him or anyone else to tell them what to do. They want to do what their flesh desires, and they do not want anyone reminding them they should do otherwise.

This defiance is nothing new. Rebellion against God has been around since early history.

Moses took the brunt of complaints when leading Israel through the wilderness. He knew that it was God Israel was angry at.

“And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread

to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.”
Ex. 16:8

Samuel faced Israel’s anger when the people wanted a king, instead of judges. God reminded His appointed man that it was God the masses were rejecting.

“And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.” 1 Sam. 8:7

When Jesus sent 70 soul-winners out to be witnesses to others, He warned the workers that if they were despised, it was because the people first hated God.

“... 16 He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.” Luke 10:1-16

After understanding that it is God the world hates, it gives explanations for ungodliness and accepted moral depravity we see and hear about daily. The ungodly in this world are rebelling against God. They refuse to have their Creator tell them how to live or what to do. It is God, they are defying.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.”

Romans 13:1-2