

DO YOU REALLY LOVE JESUS?

Ephesians 6:21-24

Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in the busyness of Christmas and neglect the real meaning of Christmas Himself – Jesus. As Christmas approaches, do you really have a love for Jesus?

1. EVERY BLESSING WE RECEIVE IS ONLY IN JESUS CHRIST – Ephesians 6:21-23

- One of the blessings celebrated in Ephesians is being ONE BODY in Christ. Jew and Gentile are together in One Family – Ephesians 3:6. We see this even in Paul's relationship with Tychicus. Tychicus is from Asia and a Gentile – Acts 20:4. But he is faithful servant and beloved brother of Paul. Tychicus carried the letter of Ephesians and Colossians from Paul in Rome – Colossians 4:7-9; 2 Timothy 4:12. Let us be faithful servants who serve and encourage one another for the glory of God. Encouragement includes speaking truth and doing it in love – Ephesians 4:15.
- Paul's final benediction of Ephesians highlights four blessings - Peace, love, faith, and grace. Paul began the book with a blessing of grace and peace – Ephesians 1:2. As the book of Ephesians explains all of these blessings come to us through Jesus Christ. Ephesians began with believers blessed with every spiritual blessing – Ephesians 1:3. These blessings come from God the Father only in the Son Jesus Christ, as applied by the Holy Spirit. Jesus is our peace – Ephesians 2:13. Jesus' death on the cross is the supreme demonstration and outpouring of God's love – Ephesians 4:32-5:2. Paul prays we would know the greatness of Christ's love – Ephesians 3:17-19. We are saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus alone – Ephesians 1:13; 2:7-9. God's grace is poured out on us in Jesus Christ - Ephesians 1:7. Every blessing comes to us only in and through Christ.
- Jesus is the One who brings all of God's grace to us – John 1:14,16. We celebrate this at Christmas when God send His Son into the world to save sinners.

2. EVERY BELIEVER IN JESUS LOVES JESUS CHRIST – Ephesians 6:24

- Anyone who truly knows the supreme love of Jesus will truly love Jesus. If you have real saving faith in Jesus it will naturally lead you to love Him. Real believers love Jesus – 1 Peter 1:8. We love Him because He first loved us – 1 John 4:19. Without a love for Jesus you have missed the whole point of the gospel and Christmas. Christ came to restore us to a real relationship with God as our Father – Ephesians 2:18.
- If you don't love Jesus you are not a believer – 1 Corinthians 16:22. In fact, Paul says let him be accursed. Loving God is the first and greatest commandment – Mark 12:29,30. As we approach Christmas, we celebrate Christ's coming to save sinners. All true Christians love Jesus. Some think of heaven as only endless fun and enjoyment for themselves or loved ones – dancing, fishing, golfing, etc. But where is a focus on Jesus? Do you really think you will go to Heaven without a love for Jesus? – Revelation 21:22; 22:3-5.
- How do you know if you really love Jesus? Besides trusting in Him, you will desire to obey Him – Luke 6:46; John 14:15. If you don't care about displeasing your Lord, how can you be His child? If we love Jesus we will desire to keep the commandments of Jesus in the Bible – John 14:21, 23-24. Jesus challenged Peter to demonstrate his love for Jesus by serving and shepherding God's people – John 21:15.

- *“Is your love for Jesus alive and growing? Do we love Him more than a year ago? Do we realize that this is the true measure of our lives: first, ‘to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge (Eph. 3:18-19), and then to find our love for Him growing, so that, ‘Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith’...Do you know and love Jesus Christ? That is the question of questions. If you want to know Him and want to grow in your love for Him...the place to turn is God’s Word, where Christ’s love for you is written in letters of blood, where His promises are sealed by the Spirit, and where God’s grace is as alive today as when Paul first wrote this glorious letter.” – Richard Philipps.*

Concluding Applications:

- Do you know and love Jesus Christ?
- Is your love for Christ leading you to surrender to Him daily, to live a life honoring to Him, to the praise of His glory?
- Are you getting to know Christ and the blessings of knowing Christ in His Word, the Bible?
- Are you known as a faithful servant of Jesus?