

Bible Study, Series 2, Week 9

Personal Bible Study

Day: 1

Read: Psalm 133 and Exodus 29: 1-7

1. Psalm 33 contains an exclamation (verse 1) and two illustrations (verse 2 & 3) about the blessing of brotherly love. (Love between the believers or the faithful)
2. Verse 2 mentions the anointing of the high priest (look at Exodus 29: 7) The oil of the anointing runs down his hair on his beard and clothes.
3. Verse 3 Hermon is the highest mountain in Palestine and is know for the thunder bolts, a wonderful blessing in that dry land. Zion was a much smaller mountain, more of a hill, but even there the dew brought its blessings. Read Hosea 14: 5. It is a gift from God.
4. Read about the symbolic meaning of the oil and the anointing in Isaiah 61: 1, Psalm 45: 7-8 and Hebrews 1: 8-9. Christ means: the Anointed, anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our eternal King, our only High Priest and Prophet. The oil is the symbol of the anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Day: 2

Read: Acts 2: 37-47

1. These verses are telling us what can happen in a Spirit filled congregation
2. Verse 37-41 tells us that the preaching in such a congregation touches the heart deeply (verse 37) and the following up work is done properly (38-40) and there are new conversions all the time (verse (41) how does your congregation compare to this example?
3. What does verse 42-43 tell us about the program in such a congregation? What does each of these activities mean? Do they appear in our congregations as well?
4. Verse 42 mentions "the life together" and then verse 44-47 tells us what it means in practice. What is the message of verse 44-45 for us, today? Does one find these attitudes in today's congregations?
5. Can one say that verse 44-47 is a practical illustration of Psalm 133? Motivate your answer.

Day: 3

Read: 1 Corinthians 12: 28-13:7

1. Verse 30 implies a strong negative answer, "not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues." Nowhere in the Bible is it said or implied that all have to speak in tongues.

2. Verse 28-30 is about the gift of the Spirit. Now verse 31 says that there is another even better gift and that is love. Read 1 Corinthians 13: 13.
3. When chapter 13 sings the praises of love, what kind of love is meant? Have a look at 2 Corinthians 5: 14, Romans 5: 5 and 1 John 4: 7, 12 and 16.
4. Verse 1-3 says: Love is the indispensable gift. Without love none of the other gifts would have been of any use, they would not accomplish anything.
5. Verse 4-7 says: Love is the unsurpassable gift: how many qualities of love is mentioned and what does each mean?

Day: 4

Read: 1 Corinthians 13: 8 and 14: 1a

1. Verse 8-13 says: love is the everlasting gift.
2. What does it mean when verse 8 says: "Love never dies?" What does it tell you if you read it in conjunction with 1 John 4: 8 and 16 and John 14: 2-3? Have a look at Song of Solomon 8: 6 as well.
3. The gifts mentioned in verse 8 were thought of very highly in Corinth while love was very scarce! Read 1 Corinthians 1: 11-12 and 6: 6-8.
4. Verse 9-12. Take note of the contrasts "We know only a portion of the truth" and "We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us, knowing him directly just as he knows us!"
5. The mirrors of that time were only polished copper or bronze and they did not give a very good likeness. Take note of the wonder that we are also going to experience "sometime" Read Revelations 22: 4.
6. "But for right now" of verse 13 means: either they stay for ever or this is the gift that everything gets down to, the most important, and the one embracing all. Love surpasses everything!
7. "Go after a life of love as if your life depended on it" This is the "best road" that the apostle wanted to show them (1 Corinthians 12: 31.) Take note: here is a command that we should all obey. How?

Day: 5

Read: Romans 12: 9, 13: 8-10 and 1 Peter 4: 8-9

1. What is said about love in Romans 12: 9, 10 and 13? Explain what each one means. Do you see such love in today's church? Motivate
2. What does Romans 13: 8-10 teach us about love? Do you think one can say that lack of love is today's Christians biggest sin? Motivate your answer.
3. If you read 1 Peter 4: 8 and 1: 22 with Mathew 7: 1-5, what does it tell us?
4. Peter (4: 9) and Paul (Romans 12: 13) agree on hospitality. Are we still known for our hospitality? Should our homes be open for anyone?

Day: 6

Read: 1 John 4: 7-21

1. Verse 7-8. What is the essential prerequisite for love that these two verses illustrate so clearly? Who are the only people that can truly love? (Take note, the love mentioned here is the 1 Corinthians 13 love.)
2. Verse 9-11. Have a look at the logic that one cannot get away from. Anyone that knows about verse 9-10 has to obey verse 11 in their life. Why is it that we show so little of verse 11 in our lives/
3. If we read verse 12 and verse 20 together, what important lesson do we learn about the test for true discipleship, the love commandment, the close relationship between God and us, our witnessing as Christians?
4. Verse 13-19. "This is how we know" and what follows wants to lead us to complete certainty in our faith. It is confirmed by verse 17: "This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day--our standing in the world is identical with Christ's" and in verse 18: "There is no room in love for fear." How many secrets of faith certainty do we get in verse 13-19? Compare verse 13 with Romans 8: 9b and 16 and verse 17 with Romans 2: 28.
5. Verse 21. A command that has to be obeyed -- because " But there is a second to set alongside it" (Mathew 22: 38-39)

Group Bible Study:

Read: John 13: 34-35

1 John 2: 7-11 and 3: 10-18

Verse 34a: Jesus gives a new commandment: "Let me give you a new command"

Verse 34b: He gives us a new measure: "In the same way I loved you, you love one another"

Verse 35: Jesus says that that will be the most prominent sign of His followers; everyone will know them because of their love towards each other.

1 John 2: 9-11: The person that does not love his brother but hates him: is still lost in the darkness is still unsaved. The person still walks in darkness and " stumbles around in the dark, doesn't know which end is up, blinded by the darkness."

1 John 2: 10: When I'm following Christ it ensures that others do not fall because of me. Read 1 Corinthians 11: 1 again.

1 John 3: 10-14: The typical sign of a follower of Christ is love and that of the world is hate. Verse 12b-13 says why the world cannot stand Christians: The lives of the Christians are an accusation to their lives of sin and evil, it makes them feel guilty.

1 John 3: 16: Christ for us, we for our brothers.

1. If you read John 13: 34-35 that everyone can see that we are followers of Christ by our love towards each other? Explain your answer. What can we do about it?
2. Why is it written in 1 John 2: 7-8: "My dear friends, I'm not writing anything new here. This is the oldest commandment in the book," and "On the other hand, perhaps it is new, freshly minted as it is in both Christ and you?"

3. In these verses "brothers" are mentioned all the time. Who are our brothers (and sisters) to whom we owe this love - only Christians or all people? Are there Bible verses you can base your answer on?
4. Have a look at 1 John 3: 10-12. How many types of people are there in this world? What are the two signs making it possible for us to know them by? Why did Cain kill his brother? What does it tell you?
5. 1 John 3: 16 does not only gives us the command of love to appreciate but, as an example for us to follow. What does it mean to us as followers of Christ? What does it demands of us?
6. Have a look at 1 John 3: 17-18 and discuss the next statement: We are satisfied that the church are preaching the gospel to the world and we are not really interested in the people and their misery. We need to do a lot more to help the whole person (not only his soul)