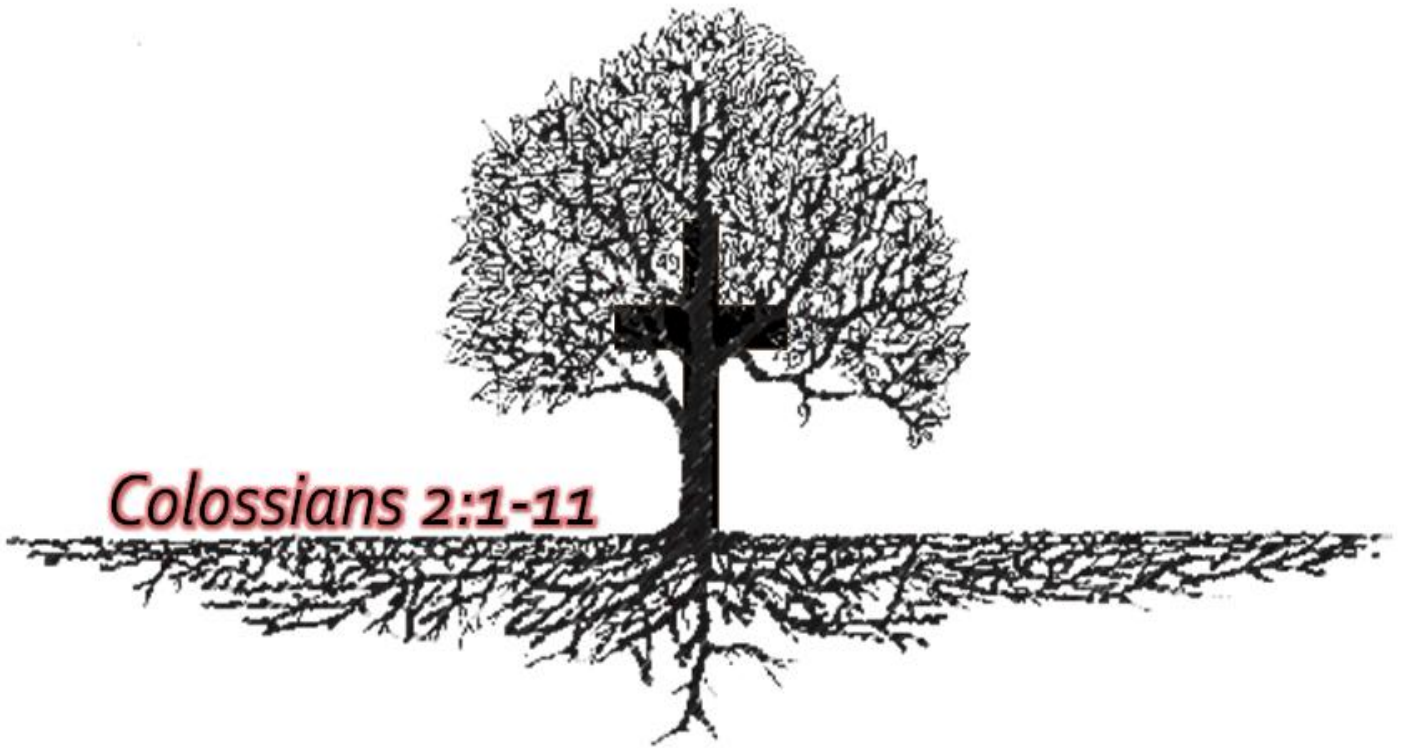


ROOTED IN CHRIST



GULF SHORES

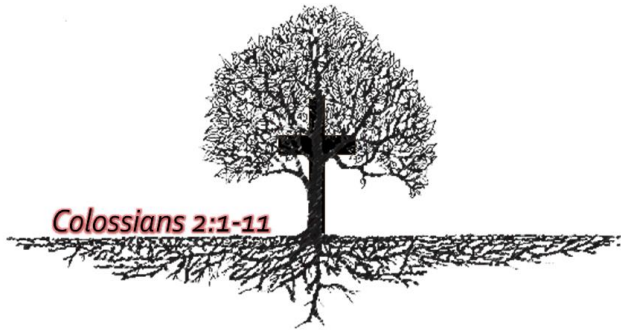
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

ROOTED IN CHRIST



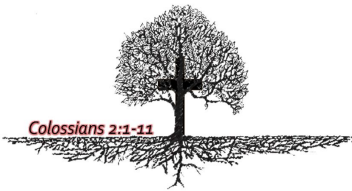
GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)

*Bible Class Study Guide
by Ray Reynolds*

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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for use in Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL) and for a gospel meeting sermon series at the Hatton Church of Christ (Hatton, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, Dr. Coy Roper, Dr. Steven Guy, Dr. Edgar Elliott, J. Vernon McGee, and other sources.



LESSON ONE: Rooted By Salvation

Introduction: We live in a world full of trouble and turmoil. It is easy for us to be swayed by the winds of change. God wants us to be grounded. We need to be rooted in Christ to have a strong foundation. Have you ever wondered who could be saved? People have asked similar questions before (**Matthew 19:25, Luke 18:18, Acts 2:36, Acts 16:30, 22:10**). What answers did they receive? We must be secure in our own salvation (**I John 5:13**). What does that mean? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Salvation Was Secured By Our Savior

- *You Can Be Saved Because of God's Free Gift*
 - **Genesis 3:15, John 3:16, Hebrews 1:1-2, 2:1-4**
- *You Can Be Saved Because of God's Redemptive Plan*
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9, Mark 16:16, Philippians 2:12, I Peter 1:9**
- *You Can Be Saved Because of God's Special Offering*
 - **Titus 2:11-12, Romans 2:11, I Peter 1:17, Hebrews 5:8-9**
- *You Can Be Saved Because of Your Sinful Condition*
 - **Isaiah 59:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-12, Romans 6:16-17, Titus 3:5**
- *You Can Be Saved Because of God's Second Chance*
 - **Romans 3:23, 6:23, 8:1-3, Hebrews 8:12, 10:1-4**
- *You Can Be Saved Because of God's Reasonable Request*
 - **Romans 12:1-2, II Peter 1:5-11, I Peter 2:21-25, 3:15-16**
- *You Can Be Saved Because of God's Son Taking Your Place*
 - **John 14:6, Romans 3:23, 6:23, John 10:18**

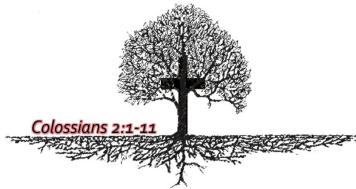
II. Salvation Solidifies Our Standing

- *You Can Be Saved If You Believe & Are Baptized*
 - **Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20, I Peter 2:10-21**
- *You Can Be Saved If You Enter the Sheepfold*
 - **John 10:9-10, Acts 20:28, Ephesians 5:23, I Peter 5:1-2**
- *You Can Be Saved If You Repent & Are Baptized*
 - **Acts 2:39-39, 3:19, 22:16, Romans 10:13**
- *You Can Be Saved No Matter Your Nationality*
 - **Acts 10:35-48, 11:14, 15:11, Romans 1:16**
- *You Can Be Saved By The Blood of Jesus*
 - **Romans 5:9-11, 18, Hebrews 9:14, 22, I John 1:7, I Peter 1:18-19**
- *You Can Be Saved If You Confess the Name of Jesus*
 - **Romans 10:9-12, Matthew 10:32, Acts 4:12**
- *You Can Be Saved If You Remain Faithful*
 - **Revelation 2:10, I Peter 4:12, I Corinthians 3:10**

III. Salvation Signifies Our Assurance

- *You Have A Commitment After Salvation*
 - **Matthew 4:19, Luke 19:10, Ephesians 4:11-16, Revelation 2:10**
- *You Have A Command To Be A Christians Witness*
 - **Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Luke 22:46-49, Acts 1:7-8**
- *You Have A Call To Be A Living Epistle*
 - **Matthew 25:14-30, Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4-5, II Corinthians 3:3**
- *You Have A Challenge To Give It All You Got*
 - **Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 9:23, John 15:16, Acts 9, II Peter 3:9**
- *You Have A Conditional Promise*
 - **Matthew 21:22, Romans 10:1, Galatians 6:9, 5:22-23, II Timothy 2:15,**
- *You Have A Compelling Choice*
 - **John 15:1-8, Matthew 25, Romans 12, I Corinthians 12-13**
- *You Have A Chance To Share Your Story*
 - **Acts 9:1-19, 22:3-16, 26:8-9, I Timothy 1:15**

Conclusion: My prayer is that God will open your heart, fill you with His Holy Spirit, equip you for ministry, and give you a passion for lost people. Remember that God is living and He is the God of the living, NOT the dead (**Luke 20:38, Hebrews 11-12**). Are you rooted in Christ?



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Bible Class Study Guide by Ray Reynolds

LESSON TWO: Rooted Through Sacrifice

Introduction: We live in a world full of trouble and turmoil. It is easy for us to be swayed by the winds of change. God wants us to be grounded. We need to be rooted in Christ to have a strong foundation. However, we must also live as a daily sacrifice. People hear the word “sacrifice” and they become afraid. They worry something might be taken from them. People think it means that we have to give up something that we can’t live without. Sacrifice means loss. What does that mean? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Sacrificial Christian Walk (Romans 12:1-2)

- *A Living Sacrifice* (Matthew 5:13-16, 6:5-13, Romans 12:9-13, Ephesians 5:16)
- *A Holy Sacrifice* (Psalm 93:5, Matthew 5:48, Isaiah 59:2, Revelation 4:8)
- *An Acceptable Sacrifice* (Psalm 18:30, 33:4, 119:89, II Timothy 3:16-17)
- *A Reasonable Sacrifice* (Psalm 46:10, Matthew 6:33, I Corinthians 10:13, James 1:2)
- *A Transformed Sacrifice* (Luke 9:23, Acts 2:38-39, II Corinthians 5:17)

II. Sacrificial Christian Fellowship (Romans 12:3-8)

- *Serving God With Humility* (Romans 12:3, Colossians 3:12)
- *Seeing The Church As One Body* (Romans 12:4, I Corinthians 12:12)
- *Honoring the Diversity of People* (Romans 12:5, I Corinthians 12:27)
- *Appreciating the Diversity of Gifts* (Romans 12:6, Ephesians 4:11-16)
- *Using Our Gifts to the Glory of God* (Romans 12:7-8, Colossians 3:23-24)

III. Sacrificial Christian Service (Romans 12:9-16)

- *Demonstration: Concerning Love, Good & Evil* (Romans 12:9, I Thessalonians 5:22)
- *Affection: Loving & Honoring Brethren* (Romans 12:10, John 13:34-35)
- *Dedication: Fervent in Our Spirit* (Romans 12:11, I Peter 1:22)
- *Satisfaction: Rejoicing, Patient, & Prayerful* (Romans 12:12, I Thessalonians 5:16-17)
- *Distribution: Caring For Needy Saints* (Romans 12:13, Acts 2:44-45)
- *Compassion: Blessing Our Enemies* (Romans 12:14, Matthew 5:43-48)
- *Action: Sharing Joys & Sorrows* (Romans 12:15, I Corinthians 12:26)
- *Rationalization: Humility of Mind & Walk* (Romans 12:16, Romans 15:5)

IV. Sacrificial Christian Living (Romans 12:17-21)

- *Seek Blessing Over Cursing* (Romans 12:17, Luke 22:34)
- *Seek Peace Over Conflict* (Romans 12:18, Mark 9:50)
- *Seek Justice Over Vengeance* (Romans 12:19, Leviticus 19:18)
- *Seek Service Over Retaliation* (Romans 12:20, II Kings 6:22)
- *Seek Good Over Evil* (Romans 12:21, James 4:17)

Conclusion: The secret of sacrifice is learning how to fellowship with the saints, serve the world, and live your faith unashamed. Are you servant minded? Are you living a sacrificial Christian life? We need to give God our very best! He deserves it. Are you rooted in Christ?



LESSON THREE: Rooted In Service

Introduction: We live in a world full of trouble and turmoil. It is easy for us to be swayed by the winds of change. God wants us to be grounded. We need to be rooted in Christ to have a strong foundation. However, we need to “branch” out and serve others. It is often difficult when we work because we often feel unappreciated. Yet, the Bible clearly tells us to be a servant. The words serve, service, and servant can be found hundreds of times in the Bible. What should we learn from these texts? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. The Calling To Serve the Lord

- *We Are Called To Serve Effectively (Colossians 1:24-2:5)*
- *We Are Called To Serve Reasonably (Romans 12:1-2)*
- *We Are Called To Serve Functionally (Ephesians 4:11-16)*
- *We Are Called To Serve Naturally (I Corinthians 12:12-30)*

II. The Blessing To Serve the Lord

- *We Are Blessed To Shine Our Light (Matthew 5:13-16)*
- *We Are Blessed To Show Our Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)*
- *We Are Blessed To Share Our Gifts (John 15:1-8)*
- *We Are Blessed To Serve Our God (Deuteronomy 13:4)*

III. The World Needs Us To Serve The Lord

- *The Necessity of Christian Service (James 2:14-24).*
- *The Goal of Christian Service (Colossians 4:12).*
- *The Cost of Christian Service (Luke 9:23).*
- *The Reward of Christian Service (Matthew 25:31-46).*

IV. The Contrast Between Serving Yourself or Others

- *The Way of the Wise = Thinking of Others*
 - *The wise do not withhold good from others (Proverbs 3:27).*
 - *The wise do not put off the needs of others (Proverbs 3:28).*
 - *The wise do not forget their position with others (Proverbs 3:29).*
 - *The wise do not fight with others (Proverbs 3:30).*
- *The Way of the Foolish = Thinking of Self*
 - *The foolish withhold good from others (Proverbs 3:27).*
 - *The foolish put off the needs of others (Proverbs 3:28).*
 - *The foolish forget their position with others (Proverbs 3:29).*
 - *The foolish fight with others (Proverbs 3:30).*
- *Remember the Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)*
- *Remember the Greatest Commands (Mark 12:28-31)*

Conclusion: When we offer ourselves to serve the Lord, God can do some amazing things! Don't worry about whether or not you'll fail, or whether or not you'll do it right, or whether or not you're the right person for the job, just serve God to the best of your ability! Are you ready to serve? Are you rooted in Christ?



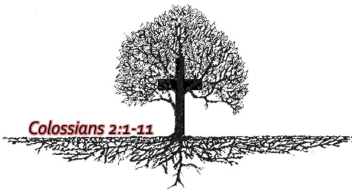
LESSON FOUR: Rooted In Faith

Introduction: We live in a world full of trouble and turmoil. It is easy for us to be swayed by the winds of change. God wants us to be grounded. We need to be rooted in Christ to have a strong foundation. However, we need to establish the faith to be fearless. How can we do that? Let's study together...

Discussion:

- I. ***Faith Wakes Up: Believers (Hebrews 11:1-3)***
- II. ***Faith Worships: Abel (Hebrews 11:4)***
 - **Romans 10:17, Genesis 4:10**
- III. ***Faith Walks: Enoch (Hebrews 11:5-6)***
 - **Genesis 5**
- IV. ***Faith Works: Noah (Hebrews 11:7)***
 - **Genesis 6-10**
- V. ***Faith Waits: Abraham & Sarah (Hebrews 11:8-19)***
 - **Genesis 12-21**
- VI. ***Faith Witnesses: Isaac (Hebrews 11:20)***
 - **Genesis 21-35**
- VII. ***Faith Wrestles: Jacob (Hebrews 11:21)***
 - **Genesis 25-49**
- VIII. ***Faith Wishes: Joseph (Hebrews 11:22)***
 - **Genesis 30-50**
- IX. ***Faith Wanders: Moses (Hebrews 11:23-29)***
 - **Exodus 2-Deuteronomy 34**
- X. ***Faith Wars: Joshua (Hebrews 11:30)***
 - **Exodus 17-Joshua 24**
- XI. ***Faith Wants: Rahab (Hebrews 11:31)***
 - **Joshua 2-6**
- XII. ***Faith Wins: Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, etc. (Hebrews 11:32-40)***

Conclusion: Are you ready to change? Have you repented of your sins? Have you confessed those sins? Are you living in obedience? How's your faith? Are you rooted in Christ?



LESSON FIVE: Rooted In Hope

Introduction: We live in a world full of trouble and turmoil. It is easy for us to be swayed by the winds of change. God wants us to be grounded. We need to be rooted in Christ to have a strong foundation. However, we need to build on our faith and gain assurance. How can we do that? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. What Is Our Hope?

- We Can Have Hope of a Heavenly Reward (**Matthew 6:19-20, Colossians 1:5**)
- We Can Have Hope of Resurrection (**Acts 23:6, I Corinthians 15**)
- We Can Have Hope In The Gospel (**Acts 28:20, Colossians 1:5, 23**)
- We Can Have Hope of Eternal Life (**Titus 1:2, 3:7**)
- We Can Have Hope of Salvation (**Romans 8:24-25, I Thessalonians 5:8**)
- We Can Have Hope In Our Calling (**Ephesians 1:18, 4:4**)

II. What Is The Nature Of This Hope?

- Our Hope Is Glorious (**Colossians 1:27**)
- Our Hope Is Good (**II Thessalonians 2:16**)
- Our Hope Is Blessed (**Titus 2:13**)
- Our Hope Is Steadfast & Sure (**Hebrews 6:19**)
- Our Hope Is Joyful (**Hebrews 3:6**)
- Our Hope Is Living (**I Peter 1:3**)

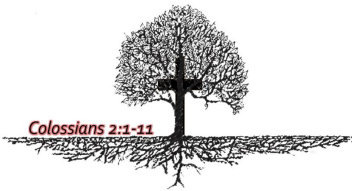
III. Why Do People Reject This Hope?

- Sinful Living Starts With A Desire To Sin (**James 1:15**)
- Sinful Living Continues To Allow Us To Drift (**Isaiah 53:6**)
- Sinful Living Offers a Very Deceptive Outcome (**I Corinthians 6:9**)
- Sinful Living Promises More Than It Can Deliver (**Romans 6:6**)
- Sinful Living Is Always Destructive (**Romans 5:12**)
- Sinful Living Leads To Eternal Death (**Romans 3:23, 6:23**)

IV. How Can This Hope Transform Our Lives?

- Hope Will Challenge You To Pursue The Fruit Of The Spirit (**Galatians 5:19-23**)
- Hope Will Remove Your Condemnation (**Romans 8:1**)
- Hope Will Cleanse You From Your Sins (**I John 1:9-10**)
- Hope Will Cover A Multitude Of Sins (**Hebrews 10:14**)
- Hope Will Reverse Your Condition (**Romans 5:9**)
- Hope Will Compel You To Tell Others (**I Peter 3:15**)

Conclusion: Our future hope is a present-day reality (**Psalm 145:15**). What was Paul's prayer? He said, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" (**Romans 15:13**). Hope can fill us with joy. Hope can fill us with peace. Hope allows us to trust in God. That same hope can overflow in us by the power the Holy Spirit! I need that hope. You need that hope. The world needs that hope!!! Are you rooted in Christ?



LESSON SIX: Rooted In Love

Introduction: We live in a world full of trouble and turmoil. It is easy for us to be swayed by the winds of change. God wants us to be grounded. We need to be rooted in Christ to have a strong foundation. However, we need to learn to love (**Mark 12:28-31**). The Bible tells us that love is the greatest human virtue (**I Corinthians 13**). How can we do that? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Love the Lord With All Your Heart

- *Purify Your Heart* (**I Samuel 16:7, Matthew 5:8, James 4:8**)
- *Speak Your Heart* (**Proverbs 23:7, Matthew 12:34-35, Hebrews 4:12**)
- *Follow Your Heart* (**II Corinthians 9:7, Ephesians 6:5-6, II Timothy 2:22**)
- *Confess Your Heart* (**Matthew 10:32-33, Romans 6:17-18, Romans 10:10**)
- *Keep Your Heart* (**Psalms 51:10-13, Proverbs 4:23, I Timothy 1:5**)

II. Love the Lord With All Your Soul

- *Know Your Soul* (**Matthew 10:28, Mark 8:36-37, I Timothy 4:8**)
- *Convert Your Soul* (**Psalms 19:7, Romans 12:1-2, James 1:21**)
- *Guide Your Soul* (**I Peter 1:22, I Peter 3:21, I John 3:3**)
- *Complete Your Soul* (**I Corinthians 13:9, Colossians 2:10, II Timothy 3:16-17**)
- *Save Your Soul* (**Matthew 10:32, John 8:24, I Peter 1:9**)

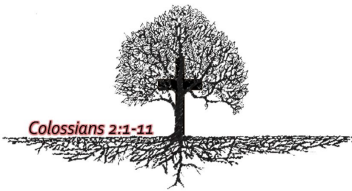
III. Love the Lord With All Your Mind

- *Respect Your Mind* (**Romans 1:28, Romans 8:5-6, Colossians 1:21**)
- *Protect Your Mind* (**II Corinthians 10:4-5, Philippians 4:7, I Peter 5:7**)
- *Renew Your Mind* (**Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:23, Philippians 2:5**)
- *Focus Your Mind* (**Acts 17:11, I Corinthians 2:16, I Peter 1:13-16**)
- *Motivate Your Mind* (**Acts 20:19, Romans 7:2, I Peter 5:5-8**)

IV. Love the Lord With All Your Strength

- *Appreciate Your Strength* (**I Corinthians 6:13, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Galatians 5:16-18**)
- *Identify Your Strength* (**Romans 5:6, Romans 7:18-24, Romans 8:13**)
- *Build Your Strength* (**II Corinthians 4:10, Galatians 6:17, Philippians 1:20-21**)
- *Renew Your Strength* (**Romans 8:10, II Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 3:26-27**)
- *Reveal Your Strength* (**Isaiah 40:31, II Corinthians 12:9, Ephesians 6:10-20**)

Conclusion: Many people come to the end of their life without ever having put Christ into His proper place. How sad! They never rearrange their priorities to put on Christ. In the same way, Christians are supposed to let Christ take center stage. Does Jesus Christ have first place in your life? Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our hope for the second coming of Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you love God emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, and physically? Are you rooted in Christ?



LESSON SEVEN: Rooted In Work

Introduction: We live in a world full of trouble and turmoil. It is easy for us to be swayed by the winds of change. God wants us to be grounded. We need to be rooted in Christ to have a strong foundation. However, as we noted in our last lesson, we need to learn to love (**Mark 12:28-31**). Love will compel us to action. What does that mean? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. *Loving Your Neighbor Takes Action*

- *Meet Your Neighbor* (**Matthew 5:13, Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15**)
- *Help Your Neighbor* (**Matthew 10:42, Luke 10:25-37, Galatians 6:10, James 2:26**)
- *Admire Your Neighbor* (**Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 13:9, I John 4:20**)
- *Encourage Your Neighbor* (**Romans 15:2, Luke 12:1, I Corinthians 5:6-7, I Corinthians 12:25**)
- *Teach Your Neighbor* (**Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, I Timothy 4:12, Hebrews 8:8-12**)

II. *Loving Yourself Takes Action*

- *Loving Yourself Means Self-Assessment*
 - We are accountable for our sins (**Ezekiel 18:20, 30, II Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 9:27**)
 - We are accountable for what we say and believe (**Matthew 12:36, John 3:18**)
- *Loving Yourself Means Self-Esteem*
 - Our self-esteem is formed by God's loving hands (**Isaiah 64:8**)
 - Our self-esteem is solidified by God's Son (**John 3:16, Galatians 6:3-5**)
 - Our self-esteem is affected by our relationship with Christ (**Romans 12:1-8**)
- *Loving Yourself Means Self-Control*
 - Self-control removes fear, fuels our power, and provokes love (**II Timothy 1:6-7**)
 - Self-control establishes perspective, ignites, and equips (**I Thessalonians 5:5-8, Ephesians 4:11-16**)
 - Self-control is hard in adversity, loneliness, and sin (**II Timothy 3:1-5, I Corinthians 10:13**)
- *Loving Yourself Means Self-Love*
 - You were made in the image of the Living God (**Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 139:1-18**)
 - You were formed for God's plan (**Psalm 8:3-5, Luke 12:4-12, Galatians 5:22-23**)
- *Loving Yourself Means Self-Worth*
 - God is proud of our spiritual work (**II Chronicles 19:5-10, Romans 14:11-12**)
 - God's approval is all we should seek (**II Corinthians 10:12-18, II Timothy 2:15**)

III. *Loving Your Enemies Takes Action*

- *Love Anyone Who Curses You* (**Matthew 5:9-12, Luke 6:28, Romans 12:14**)
- *Love Anyone Who Hates You* (**Matthew 5:13-16, Luke 6:27, John 15:18-19**)
- *Love Anyone Who Angers You* (**Matthew 5:21-24, Matthew 18:15-17, Galatians 6:1-2**)
- *Love Anyone Who Uses You* (**Matthew 5:38-41, Matthew 27:27-30, Galatians 6:10**)
- *Love Anyone Who Persecutes You* (**Matthew 5:43-48, Acts 8-9, I Timothy 1:13-16**)

Conclusion: We need to have an active faith! Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our hope for the second coming of Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you love God relationally, personally and socially? Are you putting that love into action? Are you rooted in Christ?