

*Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*



**GULF SHORES**

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Gulf Shores, AL

***BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE***

***Prepared by Ray Reynolds***

# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

**Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL)**

## **Bible Class Study Guide**

*Prepared by Ray Reynolds*

*"Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?" Jesus answered him, "**The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. 'This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.**" (Mark 12:28-31)*

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### **LESSON OUTLINES**

1) <i>Love the Lord With All Your Heart . . . . .</i>	3
2) <i>Love the Lord With All Your Soul . . . . .</i>	4
3) <i>Love the Lord With All Your Mind . . . . .</i>	5
4) <i>Love the Lord With All Your Strength . . . . .</i>	6
5) <i>Love Your Neighbor . . . . .</i>	7
6) <i>Love Yourself . . . . .</i>	8
7) <i>Love Your Enemies . . . . .</i>	9

*This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for use in Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, 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. Bill Bagents, Dr. Edgar Elliott, Chuck Swindoll, David Jeremiah, Mark Copeland, and other sources.*

# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

## **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)**

Bible Class Study Guide – Prepared by Ray Reynolds

**LESSON #1:** Love the Lord With All Your Heart

Text: **Mark 12:28-34**

Introduction: Jesus took an opportunity to share the heart of the law with a new direction. Some look at these words and consider it to be a simple statement of faith. Some look at it as two commands that summarize the Ten Commandments. When I read these words I see six different patterns for serving God. These patterns show our dedication to real discipleship and help us to conform to the image of Christ. The first pattern is for us to follow God emotionally. Let's consider how to follow God emotionally.

### Discussion:

#### ***I. Purify Your Heart***

**I Samuel 16:7**

**Matthew 5:8**

**James 4:8**

*How can you purify your heart?*

#### ***II. Speak Your Heart***

**Proverbs 23:7**

**Matthew 12:34-35**

**Hebrews 4:12**

*How can you speak your heart?*

#### ***III. Follow Your Heart***

**II Corinthians 9:7**

**Ephesians 6:5-6**

**II Timothy 2:22**

*How can you follow your heart?*

#### ***IV. Confess Your Heart***

**Matthew 10:32-33**

**Romans 6:17-18**

**Romans 10:10**

*How can you confess your heart?*

#### ***V. Keep Your Heart***

**Psalms 51:10-13**

**Proverbs 4:23**

**I Timothy 1:5**

*How can you keep your heart?*

Conclusion: Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our dedication to Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you allow love to fill your life and motivate you to serve God? Do you follow God emotionally?

# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

## **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)**

Bible Class Study Guide – Prepared by Ray Reynolds

**LESSON #2:** Love the Lord With All Your Soul

Text: **Mark 12:28-34**

Introduction: Jesus took an opportunity to share the heart of the law with a new direction. Some look at these words and consider it to be a simple statement of faith. Some look at it as two commands that summarize the Ten Commandments. When I read these words I see six different patterns for serving God. These patterns show our dedication to real discipleship and help us to conform to the image of Christ. The second pattern is for us to follow God spiritually. Let's consider how to follow God spiritually.

### Discussion:

#### **I. Know Your Soul**

**Mark 8:36-37**

**Matthew 10:28**

**I Timothy 4:8**

*How can you know your soul?*

#### **II. Convert Your Soul**

**Psalms 19:7**

**James 1:21**

**Romans 12:1-2**

*How can you convert your soul?*

#### **III. Guide Your Soul**

**I Peter 1:22**

**I Peter 3:21**

**I John 3:3**

*How can you guide your soul?*

#### **IV. Complete Your Soul**

**I Corinthians 13:9**

**Colossians 2:10**

**II Timothy 3:16-17**

*How can you complete your soul?*

#### **V. Save Your Soul**

**I Peter 1:9**

**John 8:24**

**Matthew 10:32**

**Luke 13:3**

**Mark 16:16**

**Luke 19:10**

*How can you save your soul?*

Conclusion: Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our dedication to Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you allow love to fill your life and motivate you to serve God? Do you follow God spiritually?

# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

## **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)**

Bible Class Study Guide – Prepared by Ray Reynolds

**LESSON #3:** Love the Lord With All Your Mind

Text: **Mark 12:28-34**

Introduction: Jesus took an opportunity to share the heart of the law with a new direction. When I read these words I see six different patterns for serving God. These patterns show our dedication to real discipleship and help us to conform to the image of Christ. The third pattern is for us to follow God mentally. Let's consider how to follow God mentally.

### Discussion:

#### **I. *Respect Your Mind***

**Romans 1:28**

**Romans 8:5-6**

**Colossians 1:21**

*How can you respect your mind?*

#### **II. *Protect Your Mind***

**I Peter 5:7**

**Philippians 4:7**

**II Corinthians 10:4-5**

*How can you protect your mind?*

#### **III. *Renew Your Mind***

**Romans 12:2**

**Ephesians 4:23**

**Philippians 2:5**

**I Timothy 6:5**

**II Timothy 3:8**

**Philippians 4:8-9**

*How can you renew your mind?*

#### **IV. *Focus Your Mind***

**Acts 17:11**

**I Corinthians 2:16**

**I Peter 1:13-16**

*How can you focus your mind?*

#### **V. *Motivate Your Mind***

**Acts 20:19**

**I Peter 5:2**

**Romans 7:25**

**I Corinthians 8:12**

**II Timothy 1:7**

**Proverbs 4:23**

*How can you motivate your mind?*

Conclusion: Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our dedication to Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you allow love to fill your life and motivate you to serve God? Do you follow God mentally?

# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

## **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)**

Bible Class Study Guide – Prepared by Ray Reynolds

**LESSON #4:** Love the Lord With All Your Strength

Text: **Mark 12:28-34**

Introduction: Jesus took an opportunity to share the heart of the law with a new direction. He offered six different patterns for serving God. These patterns show our dedication to real discipleship and help us to conform to the image of Christ. The fourth pattern is for us to follow God physically. Let's consider how to follow God physically.

### Discussion:

#### **I. Appreciate Your Strength**

**I Corinthians 6:13**

**I Corinthians 6:19-20**

**Galatians 5:16-18**

*How can you appreciate your strength?*

#### **II. Identify Your Strength**

**Romans 5:6**

**Romans 7:18-24**

**Romans 8:13**

*How can you identify your strength?*

#### **III. Build Your Strength**

**II Corinthians 4:10**

**Galatians 6:17**

**Philippians 1:20-21**

*How can you build your strength?*

#### **IV. Renew Your Strength**

**Romans 8:10**

**II Corinthians 5:17**

**Galatians 3:26-27**

**Hebrews 10:22**

**Galatians 2:20**

**Philippians 3:21**

*How can you renew your strength?*

#### **V. Reveal Your Strength**

**II Corinthians 12:9**

**Isaiah 40:31**

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

**II Timothy 4:6-8**

**Revelation 2:10**

**Revelation 3:8**

*How can you reveal your strength?*

Conclusion: Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our dedication to Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you allow love to fill your life and motivate you to serve God? Do you serve the Lord physically?

# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

## **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)**

Bible Class Study Guide – Prepared by Ray Reynolds

**LESSON #5: Love Your Neighbor**

Text: **Mark 12:28-34**

Introduction: We are in a series considering six patterns on how to live our Christian lives to the fullest. We have noticed that God intends for us to follow Him emotionally (heart), spiritually (soul), mentally (mind), and physically (strength). However, now we need to notice that our heart, soul, mind, and strength need to motivate our bodies into action both socially (this lesson) and personally (next lesson). Let's study together . . . .

### Discussion:

#### **I. Meet Your Neighbor**

**Matthew 5:13**

**Matthew 5:14-16**

**Philippians 2:15**

*How should you meet and greet your neighbor?*

#### **II. Help Your Neighbor**

**Matthew 10:42**

**Luke 10:25-37**

**Luke 11:5-13**

**John 15:1-8**

**Galatians 6:10**

**James 2:26**

*How can you help your neighbor?*

#### **III. Admire Your Neighbor**

**Matthew 5:43-48**

**Romans 13:9**

**I John 4:20**

*How can you have a healthy admiration for your neighbor?*

#### **IV. Encourage Your Neighbor**

**Romans 15:2**

**Luke 12:1**

**I Corinthians 5:6-7**

**I Corinthians 12:25**

**I Thessalonians 5:11**

**Matthew 7:12**

*How can you encourage your neighbor?*

#### **V. Teach Your Neighbor**

**Matthew 28:18-20**

**Mark 16:15-16**

**I Timothy 4:12**

**Hebrews 8:8-12**

**Matthew 4:19**

**II Timothy 3:16-17**

*How can you teach your neighbor?*

Conclusion: Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our dedication to Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you allow love to fill your life and motivate you to serve God? Do you serve the Lord socially?

# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

## **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)**

Bible Class Study Guide – Prepared by Ray Reynolds

**LESSON #6: Love Yourself**

Text: **Mark 12:28-34**

Introduction: We are in a series considering six patterns on how to live our Christian lives to the fullest. We have noticed that God intends for us to follow God emotionally (heart), spiritually (soul), mentally (mind), and physically (strength). However, now the rubber meets the road. We have to use our heart, soul, mind, and strength to motivate our bodies into action both socially and personally. On that note, let me be frank, nearly anyone can look like a Christian and a believer from a certain perspective. But who are you when you are all alone. Do you live what you believe and believe what you live? When it's just you and God, what do you think? How do you follow God personally? How can you really love yourself?

Discussion:

### ***I. Loving Yourself Means Accountability***

- We are accountable for our work (**II Chronicles 19:5–10, Romans 14:11–12**)
  - We are accountable for our sin, which has consequences (**Ezekiel 18:20, 30**)
  - We are accountable for every word that we speak (**Matthew 12:36**)
  - We are accountable for each other (**Luke 17:3**)
  - We are accountable for what we believe (**John 3:18**)
  - We are accountable for our actions (**II Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 9:27**)
- How can you be more accountable?*

### ***II. Loving Yourself Means Self-Esteem***

- Our self-esteem is built on God's image (**Genesis 1:26–27, Psalm 139:1–18**)
  - Our self-esteem is built on God's plan (**Psalm 8:3–5, Luke 12:4–12**)
  - 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**)
  - Our self-esteem is based on God's approval (**II Corinthians 10:12–18**)
- How can you build your self-esteem?*

### ***III. Loving Yourself Means Self-Control***

- Self-control (from the Holy Spirit) removes fear, fuels our power, and provokes love.  
**II Timothy 1:6-7, Galatians 5:22-23**
  - Self-control establishes our perspective, ignites our flame, and equips us for ministry.  
**I Thessalonians 5:5-8, Ephesians 4:11-16**
  - Self-control is hardest when we face adversity, feel alone, and are surrounded by sin.  
**II Timothy 3:1-5, I Corinthians 10:13**
- How can you gain more self-control?*

Conclusion: Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our dedication to Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you allow love to fill your life and motivate you to serve God? Do you follow God personally?



# *Living The Christian Life To The Fullest*

## **GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST (Gulf Shores, AL)**

Bible Class Study Guide – Prepared by Ray Reynolds

**LESSON #7: Love Your Enemies**

Text: **Matthew 5:43-48**

Introduction: We just finished a series that considered the six patterns on how to live our Christian lives to the fullest. We noticed that God intends for us to follow God emotionally (heart), spiritually (soul), mentally (mind), physically (strength), socially (neighbor) and personally (yourself)? However, we thought it might be fitting to go the extra mile! What about loving our enemies? Jesus said, *“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”* How can we do that?

### Discussion:

#### **I. Love Anyone Who Curses You**

**Matthew 5:9-12**

**Luke 6:28**

**Romans 12:14**

*How can you love someone who curses you?*

#### **II. Love Anyone Who Hates You**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

**Luke 6:27**

**John 15:18-19**

*How can you love someone who hates you?*

#### **III. Love Anyone Who Uses You**

**Matthew 5:38-41**

**Galatians 6:10**

**Matthew 27:27-30**

*How can you love someone who uses you?*

#### **IV. Love Anyone Who Persecutes You**

**Matthew 5:23-24**

**Acts 8-9**

**I Timothy 1:13-16**

*How can you love someone who persecutes you?*

Conclusion: Every facet of our life should be impacted by our faith in God, our dedication to Jesus Christ, and our comfort in the Holy Spirit. Do you allow love to fill your life and motivate you to serve God? Do you follow God when it's difficult or only when it's easy? Let's allow love to guide us! Let's live our Christian life to the fullest!