

Monday 3/23

Related Verses

Matt. 5:44-48

44 But I say to you, Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you,

45 So that you may become sons of your Father who is in the heavens, because He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the just and the unjust.

46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

47 And if you greet only your brothers, what better thing are you doing? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

48 You therefore shall be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Eph. 5:29

29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,

Rev. 19:7

7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

Gen. 1:26

26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Rom. 9:21, 23

21 Or does not the potter have authority over the clay to make out of the same lump one vessel unto honor and another unto dishonor?

23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,

Related Reading

“For the kingdom people to be perfect as their heavenly Father is perfect means that they are perfect in His love. They are the Father’s children, having the Father’s divine life and divine nature. Hence, they can be perfect as their Father is. The demand of the new law of the kingdom is much higher than the requirement of the

law of the old dispensation. This higher demand can be met only by the Father’s divine life, not by their natural life...First, the gospel presents in the Gospel of Matthew the kingdom of the heavens as the highest demand, and last it affords us in the Gospel of John the divine life of the heavenly Father as the highest supply, by which we can have the highest living of the kingdom of the heavens. The demand of the new law of the kingdom in Matthew 5 through 7 is actually the expression of the new life, the divine life, which is within the regenerated kingdom people. This demand opens up the inner being of the regenerated people, showing them that they are able to attain to such a high level and to have such a high living. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 231-232)

All the requirements of these changed laws [Matt. 5:31-48] reveal how much the divine life within us can do for us. These laws are not merely a requirement; they are a revelation, showing us that the divine life can even make us perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect...We have a life with such a divine nature that it can make us as perfect as our heavenly Father [v. 48].

The Father causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and...He sends rain on the just and the unjust [v. 45]...This indicates that in the eyes of the heavenly Father there is no difference in sending the sunshine first on the evil and then on the good and sending the rain first on the just and then on the unjust.

The Lord’s word was intended to touch our being, our natural choice, and to expose what we are and where we are. When we have been exposed and subdued, we will give the full opportunity to the divine life to live in us. This will make us perfect even as our heavenly Father is perfect. We cannot imitate the Father. When I was young, I was taught by those in Christianity that our heavenly Father loves those who are bad and that we should love our enemies just as our Father does. Although this sounds good, it actually is like trying to teach a monkey to behave like a person...We are the sons of our heavenly Father. Thus, the Father’s life and nature are within us. All the outward enemies, compellers, and opponents expose what we are. Because they expose our natural being, we learn not to trust ourselves any longer but to look to our Father and to realize that we have His

life and nature within us. Through this exposure we come to see that we must stay close to Him and live by His life and nature. In this way we will be perfect as our heavenly Father. This is the kingdom life, the kingdom living.

Misunderstanding these verses, many Christians have taken them as instructions concerning their outward behavior. This is the reason so many have been disappointed and have said, “This is too much for us. We are far away from it, and we are unable to fulfill it.” This is not a common word given by the Lord Jesus; it is the constitution of the heavenly kingdom. Because we are His kingdom people, we can certainly fulfill these requirements. We have the kingdom life within us, and we can fulfill these laws not in ourselves but by the Father’s life and nature. Therefore, we must thank Him for sending so many contrary things into our environment in order to touch our being and to expose what we are so that we may be fully subdued, turn to Him, stay near to Him, trust in Him, and live by Him. (*Life-study of Matthew*, pp. 232-234)

Further Reading: *Life-study of Matthew*, msg. 19

Tuesday 3/24

Related Verses

Eph. 4:12-13

12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Matt. 5:20

20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

Rom. 5:5, 8

5 And hope does not put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

8 But God commends His own love to us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

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The more the child is nourished and grows, the more he will function normally.

In the same principle, the new man created by Christ must be perfected in order to function...Through the operation in the measure of each one part, the Body grows unto the building up of itself in love. The creation of the new man was the responsibility of the Lord alone...But we must fulfill our responsibility to perfect the new man through nourishing and cherishing. As the new man is perfected in this way, he grows and becomes perfect functionally.

The new man can become perfect in relation to his functions only through receiving the proper nourishment. This, however, is not a superficial matter. On the contrary, it is one of the deepest concepts in the whole book of Ephesians...Because those in Christianity rely on doctrine, they mainly build up something else in place of the Body. The Body does not become functionally perfect through the teaching of doctrine. Actually, in Ephesians 4, a chapter that speaks of the perfecting of the new man through the growth of life, doctrine is depreciated. Paul says that when we are no longer children, we will no longer be carried about by winds of doctrine. What is needed for the building up of the Body and for perfecting the new man functionally is the growth of life. This comes only through feeding.

I believe that the day is coming when everyone in the local churches will be a functioning member. Consider how children grow by receiving nourishment. The more they grow, the more they function. The principle is the same with our spiritual growth as members of the Body. The more we grow by being nourished and cherished, the more we will function properly in the church life. If the saints are absolute with the Lord, in a relatively short time many will come into function. I have the full assurance in the Lord that soon this will be the situation in the Lord's recovery.

In Ephesians 2 we have the creation of the new man, and in chapter 4, the growth of the new man. In order for the new man to grow, we need to experience the crucified, resurrected, ascended, and descending Christ. This means that the all-inclusive Christ must be wrought into us to be our everything. Then the organically perfect

new man will also become perfect functionally. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, pp. 748-749, 753, 755)

Further Reading: Life-study of Ephesians, msgs. 92—93; *CWWL, 1958*, vol. 1, "The Perfecting of the Saints and the Building Up of the House of God," ch. 3

Wednesday 3/25

Related Verses**John 3:16**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

1 John 4:10

10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.

2 Cor. 5:10, 14

10 For we must all be manifested before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done through the body according to what he has practiced, whether good or bad.

14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

John 3:3, 5-7

3 Jesus answered and said to him, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Do not marvel that I said to you, You must be born anew.

Luke 12:46-47

46 The master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour which he does not know, and will cut him asunder, and will appoint his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And that slave who knew his master's will and did not prepare or do according to his will, will receive many lashes;

Rom. 8:35, 39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or anguish or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword?

39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 15:30

30 Now I exhort you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

2 Cor. 13:14

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Related Reading

"We may distinguish between something that is perfect, or complete, organically and something that is perfect according to its function. At birth, an infant is perfect organically; that is, the infant has all the necessary organs. However, a child is not functionally perfect at birth. Organically, a mother cannot help her child, for she cannot add any organs to the child. But she can help him functionally by feeding him so that he will grow normally...In order to develop properly and to function normally, every child needs to be nourished and cherished. This principle also applies to the church as the new man. In Ephesians 2:15 we see the creation of the new man organically, but in 4:13-16 we see the perfecting of the new man in relation to his function. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, pp. 747-748)

At birth, the new man is organically perfect; however, he is not yet able to function. Just as a child needs to be perfected through nourishing and cherishing, so the organically perfect new man needs to be perfected through the growth of life in order to function in a proper way.

Only God can create a being that is organically perfect. However, after a child is born, God does not come in to feed him or cherish him. This is the responsibility of the parents, especially of the mother.

Related Reading

God's nature includes Spirit as the nature of God's person, love as the nature of God's essence, and light as the nature of God's expression. Since God is dispensing Himself in His nature into us, the more we are under God's dispensing, the more we have of His Spirit, love, and light.

Because God is love as well as Spirit, the more we are under His dispensing, the more love we have...When the New Testament says that God is love, this does not mean that God merely has love but that He is love. Through God's dispensing of Himself into us, we become love in the sense of being constituted of God as love...Only one kind of love is genuine, and that is the love that comes out of God's dispensing. When we are under God's dispensing, we react with genuine love, which is God Himself. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 69-70)

If we are under [God's] dispensing, our reactions will indicate to others that we have much Spirit, love, and light, even that we are constituted of Spirit, love, and light.

The divine love...is the nature of God's essence. Thus, it is an essential attribute of God. John 3:16 tells us that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son," and 1 John 4:9 says, "In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him..."The "world" refers to fallen mankind [1 Tim. 1:15], whom God so loved that, by making them alive through His Son with His own life, they might become His children. In this the love of God has been manifested.

The word *herein* [in 1 John 4:10] refers to the following fact: not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins. In this fact is the higher and nobler love of God. The divine love as God's essential attribute is mainly expressed in sending His Son to redeem us and impart God's life into us that we may become His children.

Ephesians 2:4 says, "God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us." The

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object of love should be in a lovable condition, but the object of mercy is always in a pitiful situation. Hence, God's mercy reaches further than His love. God loves us because we are the object of His selection. But we became pitiful by our fall, even dead in our offenses and sins; therefore, we need God's mercy. Because of His great love, God is rich in mercy to save us from our wretched position to a condition that is suitable for His love. The nobler love of God as His essential attribute needs His attribute of mercy to reach us in the deep pit of our fallen life.

From the day we believed in the Lord Jesus, the love of God has been poured out in our hearts [Rom. 5:5]. This is not merely a matter of feeling. On the contrary, something substantial, something essential, has been poured out into our hearts...As believers, deep in our hearts we have something of the divine essence, and this is God the Father as love...God as love is the divine essence that has been poured out into our hearts. Therefore, the pouring out of the love of God into our hearts is a matter of the essence of God. Because we have been regenerated, we have love as the nature of God's essence within us. Because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts, the heart of every believer is a heart of love. In our experience and enjoyment of God as the Father in His love, we experience and enjoy the dispensing of love as the nature of God's essence into our hearts. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 71, 75-76, 1477)

Further Reading: The Conclusion of the New Testament, msg. 8; *CWWL*, 1989, vol. 4, "The Advance of the Lord's Recovery Today," ch. 5

Thursday 3/26

Related Verses1 Cor. 12:31

31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And moreover I show to you a most excellent way.

1 Cor. 13:1-8 (4-7)

1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

- 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
 3 And if I dole out all my possessions to feed others, and if I deliver up my body that I may boast, but do not have love, I profit nothing.
 4 Love suffers long. Love is kind; it is not jealous. Love does not brag and is not puffed up;
 5 It does not behave unbecomingly and does not seek its own things; it is not provoked and does not take account of evil;
 6 It does not rejoice because of unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
 7 It covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
 8 Love never falls away. But whether prophecies, they will be rendered useless; or tongues, they will cease; or knowledge, it will be rendered useless.

Related Reading

Love prevails. Regardless of how much we shepherd and teach others, without love everything is in vain...Even if we prophesy in the highest way and give everything for others, without love they mean nothing (1 Cor. 13: 2-3). Both shepherding and teaching need love, not our natural love but His divine love. (*CWWL*, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," p. 121)

The spirit that God has given us is our human spirit regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This spirit is a spirit of love; hence, it is of power and of sobermindedness (2 Tim. 1:7). We may think that we are very powerful and sober, but our spirit is not of love;...[instead] our talk [to people] threatens them.

The main gift that God has given us is our regenerated human spirit with His Spirit, His life, and His nature. We must fan this gift into flame [v. 6]. This means that we have to stir up our spirit so that our spirit will be burning. Romans 12:11 says that we should be burning in spirit...We must have a burning spirit of love, not a burning spirit of authority, which damages.

We may think that we are living, but we are dead because we do not love [1 John 3:14b]. If we do not love

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our brother, we abide in death and are dead, but if we do love him, we abide in life and are living.

First Corinthians 13 speaks of love, and then chapter 14 begins by saying that we are to pursue love while we desire spiritual gifts (v. 1). Our desiring of gifts must go along with the pursuing of love. Otherwise, the gifts will puff us up. To overcome the degradation of the church we need to pursue love with those who seek the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Tim. 2:22). We have to pursue love with a group of seekers of the Lord. This is a vital group.

Loving one another is a sign that we belong to Christ (John 13:34-35). We do not need to bear an outward sign that we are of Christ. If all the saints in the Lord's recovery love one another, the whole world will say that these people are of Christ.

If we are to be more than conquerors [over our circumstantial situations], we need the love of Christ and of God [Rom. 8:35-39].

The end of 1 Corinthians 12 reveals that love is the most excellent way (v. 31b). How can one be an elder?...How can one be a co-worker? Love is the most excellent way. How do we shepherd people? Love is the most excellent way. Love is the most excellent way for us to prophesy and to teach others. Love is the most excellent way for us to be anything or do anything.

Love prevails. We should love everybody, even our enemies. If the co-workers and elders do not love the bad ones, eventually, they will have nothing to do. We must be perfect as our Father is perfect (Matt. 5:48) by loving the evil ones and the good ones without any discrimination. We must be perfect as our Father because we are His sons, His species. This is most crucial...We must love any kind of person. The Lord Jesus said that He came to be a Physician not for the healthy ones but for the sick ones [9:12].

The church is not a police station to arrest people or a law court to judge people but a home to raise up the believers. Parents know that the worse their children are, the more they need their raising up...The church is a loving home to raise up the children. The church is also a hospital to heal and to recover the sick ones. Finally, the church is a school to teach and edify the unlearned ones

who do not have much understanding. Because the church is a home, a hospital, and a school, the co-workers and elders should be one with the Lord to raise up, to heal, to recover, and to teach others in love. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," pp. 124-126)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," ch. 8

Friday 3/27

Related Verses**Eph. 1:4-5**

4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

1 John 4:19-21

19 We love because He first loved us.

20 If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

21 And this commandment we have from Him, that he who loves God love his brother also.

1 John 3:14, 16, 23

14 We know that we have passed out of death into life because we love the brothers. He who does not love abides in death.

16 In this we know love, that He laid down His life on our behalf, and we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers.

23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, even as He gave a commandment to us.

1 John 5:1

1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten of God, and everyone who loves Him who has begotten loves him also who has been begotten of Him.

Related Reading

We are God's species because we have been born of Him to have His life and nature (John 1:12-13). We have been regenerated to be God's species, God's kind, and

God is love. Since we become God in His life and nature, we also should be love. This means that we do not merely love others but that we are love itself. As His species, we should be love because He is love. Whoever is love is God's species, God's kind. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," p. 121)

God does not want us to love with our natural love but with Him as our love. God created man in His image (Gen. 1:26)...God's image is what God is, and His attributes are what He is...God created man according to His attributes, the first of which is love. Although created man does not have the reality of love, there is something in his created being that wants to love others. Even fallen man has the desire within him to love. But that is just a human virtue, the very expression of the divine attribute of love. When we were regenerated, God infused us with Himself as love. We love Him because He first loved us [1 John 4:8, 19]. He initiated this love.

God's predestination of us unto the divine sonship was motivated by the divine love...[In Ephesians 1:4-5] the phrase *in love* can be joined with the phrase *predestinating us unto sonship*. God predestinated us unto sonship in love. John 3:16 says that God so loved the world. He loved us before the foundation of the world.

God's giving of His only begotten Son to us that we may be saved from perdition judicially through His death and have the eternal life organically in His resurrection was motivated by the divine love (3:16; 1 John 4:9-10)...First John 4:10 says that God sent His Son to us as a propitiation for our sins. This is judicial through His death. Verse 9 says that God sent His Son to us that we may have life and live through Him. This is organic in His resurrection.

God's love is the source of the grace of Christ dispensed to us through the fellowship of the Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14). This is for us to enjoy the processed and consummated Triune God.

God's love motivates us, His children, to love our enemies that we may be perfect as He is; He loves the fallen human race, who became His enemies, by causing His sun (signifying Christ) to rise on the evil and the

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good indiscriminately and sending rain (signifying the Spirit) on the just and the unjust equally; thus, we may become the sons of the heavenly Father who are sanctified from the tax collectors and the Gentiles (Matt. 5:43-48). The entire human race became His enemies, but God still loves the human race. If God sent Christ to us with discrimination, we would be disqualified from receiving His salvation.

We should be like God in our love for others. The tax collectors love only those who love them. The Lord said, "If you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" (v. 46). If we love only those who love us, we are of the same species as the tax collectors. But we are of the super, divine species, so we love the evil ones, our enemies, as well as the good ones. This shows how God as love prevails.

A proof that our vital group is prevailing is that we love people without any discrimination...While Christ was being crucified on the cross, two robbers were crucified with Him (27:38). One of them said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (v. 43). The first one saved by Christ through His crucifixion was not a gentleman but a criminal, a robber, sentenced to death. (CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 5, "The Vital Groups," pp. 121-123)

Further Reading: CWWL, 1994-1997, vol. 2, "Crystallization-study of the Epistle of James," ch. 1

Saturday 3/28

Related Verses**1 John 4:7-18 (7, 10-12, 16, 18)**

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God, and everyone who loves has been begotten of God and knows God.

8 He who does not love has not known God, because God is love.

9 In this the love of God was manifested among us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might have life and live through Him.

10 Herein is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.

11 Beloved, if God has loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has beheld God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.

13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.

14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.

15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.

16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.

17 In this has love been perfected with us, that we may have boldness in the day of the judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear because fear has punishment, and he who fears has not been perfected in love.

Related Reading

In 1 John 4:16 John says that he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him. To abide in love is to live a life in which we love others habitually with the love that is God Himself, that He may be expressed in us. To abide in God is to live a life that is God Himself as our inward content and outward expression, that we may be absolutely one with Him. God abides in us to be our life inwardly and our living outwardly. Thus, He can be one with us in a practical way.

In 4:16 we see that there is an organic union between us and God. This organic union is indicated by the word *in*. It is interesting that John does not say that God is love and that he who abides in God abides in love. Instead, he says that he who abides in love abides in God...To say that we abide in God when we abide in love means that the very love in which we abide is God Himself. This indicates that the love that we have toward others should be God Himself. If we abide in the love that is God Himself, we then abide in God, and God abides in us. (*Life-study of 1 John*, p. 308)

In our abiding in the love that is God Himself (1 John 4:16) the love of God is perfected in us, that is, perfectly

manifested in us, that we may have boldness without fear (v. 18) in the day of judgment.

In verse 17 John speaks of the love of God being perfected with us. The word *perfected* is a translation of the Greek word *teleioo*, which means "to complete, to accomplish, to finish." The love of God itself is perfect and complete in Himself, but it still needs to be perfected in us. In order for God's love to be perfected in us, we need to experience this love.

John says that if the love of God is perfected in us, we may have boldness in the day of the judgment. The Greek word for *boldness* is *parresia*, meaning "boldness of speech, confidence." In 3:21 boldness is for us to contact God in fellowship with Him. In 4:17 the boldness is for us to face the judgment at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10) at His coming back (1 Cor. 3:13; 4:5; 2 Tim. 4:8). The judgment at the judgment seat of Christ will not be for eternal perdition or eternal salvation but rather will be for reward or punishment. If we love the brothers with God as love, we will have boldness in the day when Christ judges His believers at His judgment seat.

As in 1 John 3:3 and 7, *He* [in 4:17] refers to Christ. He lived in this world a life of God as love, and now He is our life so that we may live the same life of love in this world and be the same as He is.

A literal translation of the first part of [verse 18] would be, "Fear is not in the love." *Fear* does not refer to the fear that we will offend God and be judged by Him (1 Pet. 1:17; Heb. 12:28) but to the fear that we *have* offended God and will be judged by Him. *Love* refers to the perfected love mentioned in 1 John 4:17, the love of God with which we love others. Perfect love is the love that has been perfected in us by our loving others with the love of God. Such love casts out fear and causes us to have no fear of being punished by the Lord at His coming back (Luke 12:46-47).

In 1 John 4:18 John tells us that he who fears has not been perfected in love. This means that the one who fears has not lived in the love of God so that it could be perfectly manifested in him.

First, John says in 4:12 and 17 that God's love needs to be perfected in us. Then in 4:18 he speaks of being

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perfected in love. This indicates that we and the divine love are mingled. When love is perfected in us, we are perfected in love, for we become the love, and the love becomes us. (*Life-study of 1 John*, pp. 308-310)

Further Reading: *Life-study of 1 John*, msg. 35

Lord's Day 3/29*Related Verses***2 Pet. 1:1-11**

1 Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have been allotted faith equally precious as ours in the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ:

2 Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the full knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust.

5 And for this very reason also, adding all diligence, supply bountifully in your faith virtue; and in virtue, knowledge;

6 And in knowledge, self-control; and in self-control, endurance; and in endurance, godliness;

7 And in godliness, brotherly love; and in brotherly love, love.

8 For these things, existing in you and abounding, constitute you neither idle nor unfruitful unto the full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 For he in whom these things are not present is blind, being shortsighted, having forgotten the cleansing of his past sins.

10 Therefore, brothers, be the more diligent to make your calling and selection firm, for doing these things you shall by no means ever stumble.

11 For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly and bountifully supplied to you.

Further Reading:

Further Reading: Reading: *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, msg. 8

Hymn: #30

1 What love Thou hast bestowed on us,
We thank Thee from our heart;
Our Father, we would worship Thee
And praise for all Thou art.

2 Thy heart Thou hast revealed to us,
Made known th' eternal will;
Within the Son Thou hast come forth,
Thy purpose to fulfill.

3 Thou gavest Thy beloved Son
In love to come and die,
That we may be Thy many sons,
As heirs with Him, made nigh.

4 Through Him we have Thy very life
And Thou our Father art;
Thy very nature, all Thyself,
Thou dost to us impart.

5 Thy Spirit into ours has come
That we may "Abba" cry;
Of Spirit born, with Spirit sealed,
To be transformed thereby.

6 The many sons to glory brought
Is Thine eternal goal,
And to Thy Son's own image wrought,
Thou wilt conform the whole.

7 Throughout Thy transformation work
Thou dost direct each one,
From glory unto glory bring
Until the work is done.

8 What love Thou, Father, hast bestowed;
We'll ever grateful be;
We'll worship Thee forevermore
And praise unceasingly.

Churchwide Truth Pursuit of Genesis**Level 1—Sequential Life-study Reading**

Scripture Reading and Copying: Gen. 43

Assigned Reading: *Life-study of Genesis*, msg(s). 105-106

Level 2—Topical Study

Crucial Point: "The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who shepherded me all my life to this day, the Angel who has redeemed me from all evil"

Scripture: Gen. 48:15-16

Assigned Reading: *The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, ch. 12

Supplemental Reading: N/A

Study Questions: See the church website at churchinnyc.org/bible-study