

# A Daily Devotional Study Guide

God is Love

**I, II, III John  
& Jude**

**WEEK 1**

## *“The Light Is Truth”*

**Study:** I John 1:1-5

**Reading:** John 1:1-9, II Timothy 3:1-17

**Memory:** Romans 8:38

No inventor has ever invented a “dark machine,” yet they have produced all types of lights. You can go to a ball game in the middle of night and it will look like it is daytime outside because the lights are so bright. There have been things invented to filter and to shade the sunlight, but there is nothing that can cast darkness on areas that are lit up. The only thing that can be done is to shut out the light.

It is no wonder that God is referred to as light. Whenever a person is trying to see better, they will add light to a situation. The more light that is shed on something, the better it will be able to be seen. God will give us all the light we need to overcome any form of darkness.

### What Does the Bible Say?

From all evidence, it appears that the apostle John wrote the book of I John in the later part of the first century. At the time the book was written, he was most likely the only disciple of the original twelve who was still alive. He began his letter by telling his readers that he had heard, seen and touched Christ who was the living Word of God. John began his first book, the Gospel of John, by saying, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” He made it a point to establish the fact that Jesus was not just a man, but that Jesus was God (vs 1).

Though John doesn’t address any specific church or group in his letter, one of his purposes for writing was to combat the false teachers who were attempting to discredit the fact that Jesus was God. He uses the plural pronoun “we” to refer to all the apostles. These false teachers never knew Christ on a personal level like John had known Him (vs 2). John and the other apostles didn’t keep quiet concerning the identity of Christ. They wanted everyone to know how they could have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ (vs 3). He wrote about Christ so that all men could know the great joy that is found from having a relationship with Him (vs 4).

John told his readers that the message he was going to give them was directly from Jesus Christ himself. He proclaimed that “God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.” God is figuratively referred to as light throughout the Scripture. Light will always overtake darkness. Light is needed to help plants grow, to see for work and numerous other things. Darkness is used to hide and conceal things. God, as light, will expose sin and the need for a Savior, while darkness covers and tries to hide sin. Light also refers to good. God is all good and there is no evil that exists in Him (vs 5).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you view the Bible as just another book or do you view it as absolute truth? John clearly equates the Word of God with Christ. They are one in the same. If you believe that God can’t lie, you must also believe that all His Words are true. The Bible was written by men, but each writer was directed by the Holy Spirit. If the Bible is true, which it is, that means that anything that is contradictory to the Bible is false. It also means that everything that God says can and will happen. Sometimes it is easy to get the idea that a truth in the Bible can’t apply to us. For instance, some people say that they have tried and they just can’t change something that is wrong in their lives. They are right, they can’t change it, but God can. When you grasp onto the truth that the Bible applies to you, then you will realize that you do have the power to overcome the darkness of sin in your life. This also means that obedience to what God says will bring light into your life. This light will be seen in joy, peace and love in you and will also shine the light of Jesus on others around you.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for giving you His power over evil.*
- \* *Ask God to help you overcome sin in your life.*
- \* *Praise God because He is holy and in Him is no darkness.*

## **Thought for the day**

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Why do you think John used the term “beginning” (vs 1)?

How is this similar to the way that he began the book of John?

How had John and the other disciples experienced Jesus (vs 1)?

Why is it important to read accounts from people who had directly been with Jesus (vs 1)?

*\*\*\*Many secular sources will try to say that books of the Bible were written a few hundred years after Christ and not by the authors who claim to have written them. One of the reasons this is done is to attempt to disprove that the Bible was written by eye witnesses of Jesus.*

What was made known to men (vs 2)?

Why did John and the others disciples choose to testify about what they had seen (vs 2)?

*\*\*\*The fact that most of the disciples died for their faith is strong evidence to support that what is declared about Jesus was true.*

What did John and the other disciples proclaim (vs 2)?

Why do you think he equates Jesus with eternal life (vs 2)?

What will those who believe the message of the Gospel be able to have (vs 3)?

Why did John say he was writing this (vs 4)?

Why is joy such an important part of the Gospel (vs 4)?

What message did John hear from Jesus and proclaim (vs 5)?

Why is it important to realize that there is no darkness in God (vs 5)?

How is God light (vs 5)?

# “Sin Is Sin”

**Study:** I John 1:6-10

**Reading:** James 2:8-13, I John 2

**Memory:** Romans 8:38

Occasionally, I will strap on my roller blades and go for a skate. It is fun when I get in a rhythm and I enjoy going fast. I have to be very careful though because I have found that some of the most dangerous obstacles are ones that are hard to see. I can easily see large items that are on the path and avoid those, but it is much harder to see little rocks or sticks that, if hit at the right angle, can cause me to lose balance.

Today, we are going to see that Christians need to be on guard against both the “little” and “big” sins realizing they are both dangerous to their Christian life and their walk with God.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Verse six can apply to both Christians and non-Christians, though I believe that a greater portion of it refers to non-believers. The key word is “say.” Many people say that they are Christians and will even tell you a time in their life when they had a conversion, but if there is no action behind the words, there was probably not a genuine repentance and salvation. If we say we are Christians, but we live in constant sin, we are liars. Walking in darkness carries the idea of living in constant known sin. No believer will be perfect, but true believers will ask forgiveness and will restore their fellowship with God. When we live in sin, we are lying by saying we have a relationship with God. This can also apply to true believers who say they are Christians, but have let the enemy trick them into choices and decisions that are not healthy for them (vs 6).

True Christians will walk in righteousness. When we walk in righteousness, we will grow in our relationship with Him. We will sin, but the blood of Jesus Christ has already been shed to take care of our sins. God never breaks the relationship with us, but we break our relationship with Him when we choose to disobey. When we mess up, God is right there waiting for us to see our error and restore our

relationship with Him (vs 7).

One of the major problems that hinder people from choosing to follow Christ is a failure to recognize that they are sinners. They will admit that they have made some mistakes and bad choices, but often will not come to the point of admitting sin. When we truly realize that we are sinners, we will also see that we have a need for a Savior. Christians often stop growing spiritually because they are too prideful to admit that they have been sinning. Many people get the attitude that you have to be perfect and if you admit that you have sinned you are a failure (vs 8).

God wants us to be ready to confess our sins. When we confess, He forgives us immediately without holding any grudges or any hard feelings. When we are unwilling to admit our sin, we are calling Him a liar. When we confess, we are basically agreeing with God about our sin and how terrible it is. When we don’t confess, we are disagreeing with God and calling Him a liar (vs 9-10).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

What is your view of sin? Many people don’t think they are sinners because they view sin as the “big” things like murder, adultery, etc. They fail to recognize that sin separates them from God. All men are born separate from God and have no relationship with Him. Those who have chosen to trust in the work of Jesus Christ have fellowship with God because their sins are forgiven. Yet, even believers sin and that sin interferes with their relationship with God. When you sin as a believer, it is vital to confess that sin and accept the forgiveness of God. He will not hold a grudge against you because of your sin, but will choose to remember it no more and your relationship with Him will be restored.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Ask God to show you the little sins that come into your life.*
- \* *Thank God for constantly forgiving your sins.*
- \* *Praise God because He doesn’t hold grudges or become bitter.*

## Thought for the day

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What do you think it means to have fellowship with God (vs 6)?

What do you think it means to walk in darkness (vs 6)?

Who did John say were liars (vs 6)?

What do liars not practice (vs 6)?

Who do you think John was addressing in this verse? Explain.

What do you think it means to walk in the light (vs 7)?

How is God in the light?

What do believers have with other believers (vs 7)?

What do you think this means?

What does the blood of Jesus do (vs 7)?

How are we deceived if we say we have no sin (vs 8)?

What do you think the end of verse 8 means?

What should you do when you sin (vs 9)?

What do you think this looks like?

What will God do when we confess (vs 9)?

Why is this cleansing so important?

How can you make God a liar (vs 10)?

What is not in the person who says they are not a sinner?

What sins are difficult for you to admit and confess? Why?

## ***“True Believers Will Obey”***

**Study:** I John 2:1-6

**Reading:** I John 2

**Memory:** Romans 8:38

**W**hen I was in highschool, our school would take a trip to downtown Detroit to award those who had been faithful in church. One of our goals would be to explore the Renaissance Center, a group of large circular skyscrapers in downtown. We would travel up and down on as many elevators as we could. Since they were glass elevators located on the outside of the building, we were able to get some great views. There were some elevators that we were not able to go in because they required a finger-print identification to operate and as much as we tried, we couldn't get approval.

Today, we are going to see that true Christians will have the fingerprint of God on their lives. Our access to Him comes through Jesus Christ.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

John was concerned for the spiritual growth of Christians just as a father is concerned with meeting the physical needs of his children. He clarified what he was talking about in verse one. He didn't want people to think that sin wasn't a big deal before God. Neither did he want them to get discouraged because they could never be perfect. His desire was to see all Christians strive to live a sinless life. When we do sin, we have someone to plead our case before God. Jesus Christ has already paid the price for your past, present and future sins. He became the propitiation (the substitute) for our sins. Because of this, we know that our sins will always be forgiven and our relationship with God will always be restored if we are willing to ask forgiveness (vs 1-2).

The readers of John's letters were having problems discerning the false teachers from the real teachers. John uses much of the book to help the believers understand what true salvation is. When a person is a child of God, he will want to obey God's Word (vs 3). Anyone who says that they have a personal relationship with God through salvation and doesn't have a desire to obey God's leading, is a liar and not a true child of God.

John had already told his readers that Christians will sin, but the difference is the desire of the heart. If a person desires to obey God's commands and does so most of the time, that is evidence that they have a personal relationship with God. John didn't beat around the bush because he knew how important it was for a person to know if they were saved or not saved (vs 4). When a person has a desire to keep God's Word, they can know that they are truly a child of God (vs 5). Keeping God's Word means that the true believers will have a desire to be like Christ in all that He says and does (vs 6).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you have a desire to obey God and be like Christ? Do you obey Him on a daily basis? You shouldn't go to church and obey God because you have to, you should do it because you want to. I often wonder if one of the biggest problems in churches today is that they are filled with non-believers. There are times when believers will wander away from Christ and get caught up in sin, causing their desire to live for God to wain, but they will have some type of desire to glorify God. According to John, just praying a prayer or making a decision in church or during special meetings doesn't mean that a person is truly saved. Just because a person does what is right on the outside doesn't mean they are saved either. A person is saved when they realize that their sin has separated them from Christ, and they realize their need to be saved from that sin. True salvation occurs when a person desires to sin no longer because they realize that sin interferes with their relationship with God. A saved person has trusted in Christ to remove their sin and give them a new life. The Holy Spirit moves in and gives the new believer a desire to do what is right and to obey God's commands. Are you a true believer? If not, become one today.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for giving you a desire to obey His Word.*
- \* *Ask God to help you live a life that is glorifying to Him.*
- \* *Praise God because He is the only one that can save you.*

### **Thought for the day**

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Why do you think John describe them as "My little children" (vs 1)?

Why did John say he was writing (vs 1)?

What did John know all men would do (vs 1)?

How is Jesus our advocate (vs 1)?

Why is it important to have an advocate (vs 1)?

Why do you think John described Jesus as "the righteous" (vs 1)?

What does "propitiation" mean (vs 2)?

How is Jesus the propitiation for your sin (vs 2)?

Why is it important to realize that Jesus died for the sins of all men (vs 2)?

How can you be assured of your salvation (vs 3)?

Why do you think many people doubt their salvation?

Who does John say is a liar (vs 4)?

Why do you think a person would say they know God even though they don't?

What is not in an unbeliever (vs 4)?

How can you know you are a believer (vs 5)?

How do you think God's love is perfected in you (vs 5)?

How should you walk if you claim to be a believer (vs 6)?

Why do you think many people who claim to be believers don't walk the way Jesus walked (vs 6)?

# “Love and Hate”

**Study:** I John 2:7-11

**Reading:** John 13:31-35, Romans 2:17-29

**Memory:** Romans 8:38

**W**hen I was a youth pastor, we often gave teens in our youth group an opportunity to give testimonies about what God had been showing them. One time, one of the girls told how she was convicted of telling others she hated them. This conviction came when one of the boys from her school had died in a car accident. Some of the students felt awful because they had told that boy that they hated him shortly before he died.

Though this was good reason not to hate others, the Bible gives us a much deeper reason. Today, we are going to see how God knows our hearts. We will also see that the results of a spirit-filled life will be shown in the way we love others. God wants us to love all men.

## What Does the Bible Say?

Living for God sometimes seems difficult and complex, but in actuality, it is simple. God doesn't repeat Himself in His Word because He forgot what He has already said, but He repeats Himself so that we will know without a doubt what He wants us to do. John realized this as he told his readers that he wasn't writing anything new to them. In fact, he knew the simple concept was written about in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament. John wasn't just writing these things because he was an apostle and that is what he was supposed to do. He was writing them because he had a deep love and concern for his readers. We know this because of the use of the word “beloved” (vs 7). John was commanding the believers to love God and to love others. Though this command had been around a long time, it was given a new freshness because of the work of Jesus Christ. We now have the Holy Spirit which enables us to love others in a greater way than man had loved others before Christ came (vs 8).

John used light to refer to godliness and righteousness and used darkness to refer to sin and evil. He knew that many people will say that

they have a right relationship with God even though they have unconfessed sin in their lives. Bible scholars disagree on whether this passage refers to saved or unsaved people. The verse says “if a man hate his brother.” Scholars think that “brother” refers to Christian brothers. A Christian who has hatred in his heart is out of fellowship with God and is living in sin. Other Scholars think that the passage says that if a person hates his brother, then he is not a believer.

When a person accepts Christ, the natural outflow will be an increased love towards others. As humans, we can let selfishness interfere with our relationship with God and the way that we love others. Most likely, this passage can apply to saved and unsaved people (vs 9-11).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

What is your attitude towards others? Is there anyone in your life who you hate? Is there anyone in your life who you don't love? Love is a sign that you are controlled by the Holy Spirit and hate is a sign that you are controlled by the devil. If you have held a hatred for a person for an extended period of time and the Holy Spirit hasn't convicted you about this, it could be evidence that you are not a believer. If you have felt the conviction of the Holy Spirit, but have refused to stop hating you need to choose to obey and choose to put aside that hatred.

The opposite side of hate is love. God wants you to love all people, not only the ones who love you. It is easy to love those who are nice to you, but true biblical love is loving those who are hard to love. In John 13:34 Jesus said, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” Jesus loved us even though we were sinners and had nothing to offer Him. That is how you need to love others.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* Ask God to help you love those who are unlovable.
- \* Thank God for the love he has shown you.
- \* Praise God because He is love.

## Thought for the day

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Why do you think John addresses them as “beloved” (vs 7)?

What was he not writing to them (vs 7)?

How was the commandment an old commandment (vs 7)?

Why do you think John was stating that it was an old commandment (vs 7)?

How is the old commandment also a new commandment (vs 8)?

Who is this commandment displayed through (vs 8)?

What did John say was fading away in the lives of the believers (vs 8)?

How is the light of God shining through you (vs 8)?

How is a person who hates his brother described (vs 9)?

What point do you think John was attempting to make (vs 9)?

Why do you think John uses light and darkness (vs 9)?

What will happen to the person who loves his brother (vs 10)?

Why do you think John mentioned stumbling (vs 10)?

Why do you think John said those who hate their brother are in darkness (vs 11)?

What does a person who walks in darkness not know (vs 11)?

What can darkness do for people (vs 11)?

How is loving others not only good for them but also good for you (vs 11)?

Describe what it looks like to love others around you.

## *“Children, Fathers & Youth”*

**Study:** I John 2:12-14

**Reading:** Ephesians 6:10-18, I Peter 5:1-10

**Memory:** Romans 8:38

**A**s my wife and I raised our children, one of our goals was to develop a loving relationship with them. We knew that a deep, intimate relationship does not come overnight, and we also knew that this relationship would grow deeper as our children matured. It was our desire that our children loved being with us and we loved being with them. We always want to be there to give our children help, strength and encouragement. Our desire was to be the best parents that we could be and we want that desire to continue the rest of our lives.

Today, we are going to see that God wants us to have a relationship with Him. God doesn't want his children to stay babes after they're saved, but He wants them to have an intimate relationship with Him. As our relationship with Him develops, so will our desire to obey Him.

### What Does the Bible Say?

In verses 12-14, John used three terms that illustrated different stages of the Christian life. He called the believers little children, fathers and young men. He started out by calling them little children and reminding them how they were saved from their sins. He used the term “for His name's sake” to describe who had forgiven their sins. John used that term to refer to the person of Jesus Christ and not just His name (vs 12).

In verse 13, John described believers as fathers who have had a personal relationship with their eternal God. “Fathers” was probably used here to show a level of fellowship that each believer can have with God. We are not just children of God who only know Him as our father, but we can have fellowship with Him just as men would with other men. John also used the term young men to describe how the believers had overcome the evil of the world. Children and young adults are known for their constant energy and increasing strength. As believers, we are like young adults who have the strength from God to overcome any sin

that Satan puts in our path.

He again referred to the believers as “little children” at the end of verse 13. This description was given to believers because of the ability that God has given them to know their Heavenly Father will take care of them and provide for them. If we were to describe what we thought would be a perfect father, God is that and so much more (vs 13).

John repeats himself in verse 14 by describing the Father’s ability to have a close personal relationship with God. He also referred to the strength of youth once again. This time he added that the young men were strong because of the Word of God that they believed. Knowing the Word of God will give any Christian the strength they need to overcome the evil in the world (vs 14).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

What is your view of God and the Christian life? John gave us a great perspective about being a Christian by using children, young men, and fathers. We would naturally think that young men should be between fathers and children, but John placed them last. He most likely did this to illustrate how we should grow in Christ. When we first accept Him, we are like little children who start to know their father in a greater way. When many boys become men, they are able to establish a close friendship with their parents, just as we are able to have with God. When we realize that God is our Father who gives us all good things and then develop a close relationship with Him, we will have the desire to use God’s strength to overcome the evil of this world. Living the Christian life is all based on knowing God. How well do you know Him? Do you have a desire to know Him more on a daily basis?

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for giving you the strength to overcome sin.*
- \* *Ask God to help you know Him more each day.*
- \* *Praise God because He is a loving Father.*

## **Thought for the day**

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How did John address those who he was writing to in verse 12?

Why did he say he was writing to them (vs 12)?

Why is the simple concept of forgiveness so important to understand?

Who did John address in the first part of verse 13?

What did Fathers have the ability to know (vs 13)?

What do you think he meant about knowing God from the beginning?

Who did John address at the end of verse 13?

What were they able to do (vs 13)?

Who is the evil one (vs 13)?

Why do you need the power of God to overcome the evil one (vs 13)?

Why do you think John mentions fathers again in verse 14?

Why is a knowledge of God so important for a successful Christian life (vs 14)?

What do you think John meant when he said young men were strong (vs 14)?

What does it mean to have the Word of God abiding in you (vs 14)?

What does the Word give you the power to do (vs 14)?

Summarize what you think John was saying in verses 12-14.



# “Three Attacks of Satan”

**Study:** I John 2:15-17

**Reading:** Matthew 6:1-34

**Memory:** Romans 8:38

## What Does the Bible Say?

John encouraged his readers not to love the world. The world in this context relates to the things of this generation. The things of this world is probably a reference to the attitudes as well as some actual physical things. We all know that we shouldn't love the evil things of this world, but sometimes we don't realize that we shouldn't love some good things. Sometimes we get so caught up in things like money, houses, cars, boats, animals, etc., that we begin to love them more than we love God. The Bible tells us that we cannot “serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). If we love the world and the things that are in the world, we are not loving God like we should (vs 15).

John fit the world and the sin of the world into three main categories, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. When Satan tries to use our natural desires to tempt us into sin, he wants us to give into the lust of the flesh. God has given all of us natural desires to be used in His timing. The largest of these is the desire for sexual relations. This desire is a very good thing, and God has designed it to be limited to the bounds of marriage. Satan wants to use this natural desire to tear apart families and cause people to turn away from God.

Satan also tries to get us to sin by tempting us to lust with our eyes. He wants us to be discontent with what we have so he flashes things in front of our eyes that will cause us to desire things that God doesn't want us to have. Every person is going to have a tendency to lust after different things. It is not wrong to have things in this life and to enjoy the pleasures God has created for us to enjoy, but it is very easy to become discontent and unthankful. It is very easy to let this discontentment drive us from Christ and find ourselves consumed with wanting the things of this world.

The third sin category is the pride of life. It is very easy for us to become prideful and think that we are something. Pride is often

displayed in the way that we treat others. When we get angry at others because they do something to us or say something about us, normally this is evidence of pride. God wants us to be humble servants who are continually willing to give of ourselves to help others. We should not seek after fame or the praise of men. We should seek after things that please the Lord(vs 16).

John reminded his readers that the earth will one day be destroyed. He also wanted them to know that they could take none of the things of this earth with them when they went to heaven. The only thing we can take to heaven with us is us. God has also told us that the things that we have done for Him will last for eternity (vs 17).

## How Does this Apply to Me?

What are you living for? Have you given into the temptations of Satan? Are you living for God and doing things that will last for eternity, or are you living for your self and all you can get here on this earth? Have you allowed Satan to use fleshly temptations to draw you away from God? Has Satan tricked you into desiring some of the things that you see that this world can buy? It is not wrong to have nice things if you know that is God's will for you. Too often we want things and buy things without seeking God's direction for our lives. Have you let the desire for things interfere with your church attendance or devotional life? Are you a servant for Christ or are you caught up in yourself and making yourself look good? It is easy get afraid of what other people will think about you so you don't live for God like you should. Your main concern should not be what others think about you, but what God thinks.

## Suggestions for Prayer

- \* *Ask God to show you any area of sin in your life.*
- \* *Thank God that He has given you the ability to love Him.*
- \* *Praise God because He is eternal.*

## Thought for the day

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What are you not to love (vs 15)?

How would you define “the world” (vs 15)?

What do you think are some of the things in the world (vs 15)?

What is not in you if you love the world (vs 15)?

Explain what you think this means.

What three categories of things in the world does John give? Describe each of these.

1.

2.

3.

Which of these things do you like the most? Why?

How can you see that those things are not good for you?

How can you overcome these things?

Why is it important to understand that those things don't come from God (vs 16)?

What is happening to the world (vs 17)?

Why do you think John mentioned this?

What will last forever (vs 17)?

Why is this important to remember?

## Romans 8

*21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. 23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? 25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,*