

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

God is Love

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

WEEK 2

“Guiding You Into Truth”

Study: I John 2:18-21

Reading: Matthew 24:1-30

Memory: Romans 8:39

When my children were in high school, they were often frustrated when they had to write research papers because they could only use resources from specific websites as references. The teachers would not allow them to use Wikipedia articles or other articles that could not be confirmed as accurate. Sometimes these other sources were accurate and credible, but the teachers had learned that they needed to allow only well established sources because they were often much more accurate than sources that could be edited or posted by anyone who had an opinion.

Today, we are going to see that it is important to know the truth. Satan wants to do all he can do to get believers to believe lies and draw them away from Christ. Our only fully true and reliable source of truth as a believer is the Word of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

John wanted his readers to understand that they were entering the end times. There is much talk today about the end times and people often think that they are the first ones who have felt this way, but many of the New Testament writers wrote about the end being near. After Christ, we entered the period of grace that will end with the return of Christ. This New Testament period, almost 2000 years and counting, is referred to as the “end times.” John’s readers were familiar with the one anti-christ who is going to rule over the world during the tribulation. This anti-christ will rise to power as a deceiver and many religious people will follow him. John then called the false teachers of the day “little anti-christs.” One of the signs that time is nearing an end is the appearance of more and more false religions that deceive people into believing a lie. These “anti-christs” are not Satan worshipers and they don’t appear to be against Christ as the word “anti-christ” suggests. In fact, many of them pose as religious leaders, even well-known religious leaders. Most of

them don't know that they are tearing people away from the truth because they themselves have been deceived by Satan (vs 18).

The specific false teachers that John had written about most likely had worshiped together for a short time with the apostles and believers in Jerusalem. They then traveled out to other cities and began spreading lies. John declared that the false teachers were not of the same spirit that the apostles and true believers were. John told them that the false teachers wouldn't have worshiped with them in Jerusalem for very long because they wouldn't allow false teachers to meet with them. The false teachers must have made claims that they received their message from the apostles, and John was trying to discredit their false message (vs 19).

John reminded the believers that they have the Holy Spirit who will guide them into knowing the truth (vs 20). John told his readers that he was writing to remind them to search the Scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to help lead them into what the truth is (vs 21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you really know what is truth and what is error? If someone came into your church or Sunday School class and started teaching, how would you know if they were telling the truth? God has not only given you His Word so that you can know the truth, but He has also placed the person of the Holy Spirit inside of you to give you the ability to know what is the truth. I know I have said it over and over in the devotionals that I have written, but it is so important that I will say it again. You have to know the truth of the Word of God. You can't rely upon your parents faith or your pastor's faith or your church's faith, but you have to know the truth yourself. Romans 10:17 says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." No matter how young or old you are, there is no greater time to start studying the Word of God than today!

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for using the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to you.*
- * *Ask God to help you find the time to study His Word every day.*
- * *Praise God because He is truth.*

Thought for the day

How did John refer to the people he was writing to (vs 18)?

Why do you think he addressed them this way?

What do you think John meant by "the last days" (vs 18)?

Who did the people hear was coming (vs 18)?

Who do you think this was referring to (vs 18)?

Who did John say had already come (vs 18)? What do you think he meant by this?

What did John say was proof that we were in the end times (vs 18)?

What do you think the beginning of verse 19 means?

Why do you think John said these people "were not of us" (vs 19)?

What does John say is proof of a true believer (vs 19)?

Why did John say these people left the true fellowship of believers (vs 19)?

What did John say was the difference between these people and the ones he was writing to (vs 20)?

What do all believers have the ability to do (vs 20)?

Why did John say he was writing (vs 21)?

What did John mean by writing about a truth and a lie (vs 21)?

Why do you think that people can easily believe a lie?

How can you be assured that you are believing the truth and not believing a lie?

“Abiding In Christ”

Study: I John 2:22-29

Reading: John 3:1-22, 15:1-11

Memory: Romans 8:39

Snake-handling and the drinking of poison in connection with religion are practiced by a denomination that bases this false teaching on the Word of God. The Tennessee Supreme court actually ruled this practice as illegal stating that the state “has the right to guard against the unnecessary creation of widows and orphans.” Over the years, a handful of people have died as a result of this false religious teaching, including the leaders who promote this type of spiritual nonsense.

Today, we are going to see how it is important to allow the Holy Spirit to teach us the truth from God’s Word. The idea of snake-handling comes from a false teaching that God will give us the ability to withstand the venomous bites and show God’s power, just as God did for Paul on the Island of Malta. This is only one example of the thousands of ways that people can be led astray from the actual teaching of God’s Word.

What Does the Bible Say?

John further explained that anti-christs and false teachers will deny the deity of Christ. This normally comes in two forms. The first group denies the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, therefore denying the fact that Jesus was God. The second group says that Jesus was the son of God, but they also say that God had more than one son. Anyone who denies that Jesus was the only Son of God, or denies that Jesus was God, is a liar. If a person denies that fact that Jesus was God, they can’t be saved (vs 22-23). John encouraged his readers to continue in what they had heard when they were first saved. One of Satan’s most powerful tools is a Christian that has turned away from the true doctrine of the Word of God. When they believe the false teachers and spread their teaching, they become instrumental in steering people away from the truth (vs 24).

John began a new paragraph in verse 25 by telling his readers that God has given them eternal life (vs 25). Apparently, the false teachers were teaching the believers that they didn’t have eternal life in Christ (vs

26).

God has gifted certain members in the church with the ability to teach the Word of God. But John told us that we don’t need to have teachers. By this he meant that God has given each believer the Holy Spirit who will guide him to know the truth. Some religions tell their people that the common man can’t know the Word of God for themselves, so they must rely upon what the teacher says. John told us that we have all that we need in the Holy Spirit who helps us understand the truth of the Word of God (vs 27).

Once we have been saved, the Holy Spirit will show us what is right and wrong, but the choice is still up to us. It is easy to deceive ourselves and to fall away from Christ. That is why John encouraged us to “abide in Christ.” He reminds us that Christ will one day appear to take us home in the rapture. When this happens, if we are living for ourselves and not abiding in Him, we will be ashamed (vs 28). The good news is that we don’t have to try to live right on our own. The Holy Spirit will give us the power and strength to live righteously (vs 29).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you abiding in Christ? Do you think that the Christian life is too hard to live? Are you relying on a teacher or book to teach you the truth or do you let the Holy Spirit show you the truth through His Word? Many Christians are led away from the truth of the Word of God by false teachers. This often happens when they don’t think they can understand the Word of God for themselves, or they think that God has given the teacher a special revelation. In both cases, you can avoid being led astray by letting the Holy Spirit teach you as you study the Word for yourself. It is also important for you to continually abide in Christ. You never have to feel defeated as a Christian because God has given you all you need to live for Him.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you all you need to live for Him.*
- * *Ask God to help you know the Word for yourself.*

Thought for the day

Who is a liar (vs 22)?

What else did John call the person who denies the deity of Christ (vs 22)?

Why do you think he called them this name?

Why is it important to realize that both the Father and the Son are God (vs 22)?

What does a person do if they deny that Jesus was the Son of God (vs 23)?

Can a person be a true believer in God if they don't believe in Jesus (vs 23)? Explain.

What did John want the people to continue in (vs 24)?

How can you abide in the Christ (vs 24)?

What do you think it means to "abide" in Christ (vs 24)?

What promise has been given to those who abide in Christ (vs 25)?

Why is this such an important promise (vs 25)?

Why did John say he was writing these things (vs 26)?

What don't you need (vs 27)?

Why don't you need this (vs 27)?

Does this mean that we don't need spiritual leaders? Explain your answer.

Why should you abide in Christ (vs 28)?

How will you know if you are a believer (vs 29)?

“Are You A Christian?”

Study: I John 3:1-6

Reading: I John 3

Memory: Romans 8:39

Two women approached king Solomon with one baby and both ladies claimed that the baby was theirs. Both of the ladies gave birth around the same time and both ladies lived together. When the ladies woke up one morning, one of the babies was dead. The lady whose baby died switched babies before the other lady woke up. To determine whose baby was still living, Solomon ordered the baby to be cut in half and be divided between the ladies. The woman whose baby had already died thought it was a good idea, but the one who was the real mother told Solomon she would rather give up her rights than to see the baby killed. Through this, Solomon determined that the real mother was the one who was willing to do anything to save the life of her baby. It was discovered that while they were sleeping, one of the babies had died.

Today, we are going to see that our actions will show if we are true believers or if we are unbelievers. Solomon discovered the real mother by observing her decisions and actions, just as real believers will be noticed by their words and deeds.

What Does the Bible Say?

John was amazed at the fact that God loved us so much that He was willing to make us His children. He wanted believers to understand that God loved us more than we could ever know. Even though we are children of God, the world will not think we are right. The world didn't recognize the fact that Jesus was God when He lived on the earth, and they won't understand that we are His children (vs 1).

It is difficult to understand what it will be like to one day have perfect bodies and perfect minds, but we know that one day we will. When Jesus returns to take us to heaven, he will give us new bodies that are just like His. We can hope in the fact that we will see Him and be like Him. We know that we can never be perfect on this earth, but we should continually strive to be perfect. When we have an understanding of what this life is all about, we will seek to make ourselves pure from sin. John

began to tell his readers what separated true believers from non-believers. True believers will be convicted of sin and will have some type of desire to do what is right. (vs 2-3).

People who practice sin on a regular basis without the conviction of the Holy Spirit are not children of God. When a person is saved, they will have some type of love for God. When we love God, we won't want to do anything that hurts him. We know that when we sin, we break His law. We also know that sin interferes with our relationship with Him (vs 4). Christ came to this earth to take away sin because He desires perfection (vs 5). If a person practices sin on a regular basis, they are not children of God. This means that they are not believers. This doesn't mean that we will not sin if we are saved. We have already seen in I John 1:9 that God wants us to confess our sin. Those who make sinning a regular and normal practice in their lives are the ones that John is referring to when he says that they are not children of God (vs 6).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you a true believer? I am not asking you if you raised your hand or prayed a prayer, I am asking you if you have ever repented of your sins and accepted Christ to be your Savior. One of the greatest evidences of your salvation is the way that you live your life. If your life is characterized by continual and habitual sin, you are not a child of God. On the other hand, if you confess your sin when you are convicted by the Holy Spirit, then you are a child of God. It all comes down to your heart's desire. Once you have been saved, the Holy Spirit will give you the desire to do what is right. If you don't have that desire, or never had it, you need to truly repent of your sins and accept Christ to be your Savior.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for the salvation that He has given you.*
- * *Ask God to show you any sin of which you need to ask forgiveness.*
- * *Praise God because He is a God of forgiveness.*

Thought for the day

What did John want his readers to see (vs 1)?

How does the fact that God wants you to be His child cause you to see His great love (vs 1)?

Why is it important to recognize that believers are children of God (vs 1)?

Why does the world not know us (vs 1)?

What do you think John meant by stating that the world did not know God (vs 1)?

****Because they didn't know God and didn't recognize Jesus as the Son of God, they won't recognize that you are His child.*

Why do you think John calls the believers "beloved" (vs 2)?

What does John say believers are (vs 2)?

What has not yet appeared (vs 2)?

What will we be like when Christ does return (vs 2)?

What will you be doing if you have the hope of Christ in you (vs 3)?

What does everyone who practices sin also practice (vs 4)?

****When you choose to sin, you are also choosing to break God's law.*

What did Jesus come to do (vs 5)?

Why was He able to do this (vs 5)?

What will believers not practice in their lives (vs 6)?

What did John declare about the person who continued to live in their sin (vs 6)?

“The Deciding Factor”

Study: I John 3:7-10

Reading: Romans 7:14-25, II Corinthians 5:12-21

Memory: Romans 8:39

Several years ago, I built a deer stand for hunting. I put a lot of thought and effort into its construction. The stand was 3 feet wide by 6 feet long and was fully enclosed with plexiglass windows and carpet. I also built it with removable walls that would enable it to be converted between a bow hunting stand and a rifle hunting stand. Before I built the stand, I took a great deal of time to determine where to build it. The determining factor in the placement of the stand was based on the amount of deer I had seen in the area.

Today, we are going to see that John gave us help in determining the type of leaders we should follow. The determining factor will be the way that they live and the way that they love others.

What Does the Bible Say?

John used several different titles to address his readers. Each title makes a statement about the readers as well as John’s feeling towards them. He began verse 7 by calling them little children. John was a spiritual father towards the readers and was gently explaining the truth to them. He also referred to them as little children because of the way that some of them were being led astray. Children will believe almost everything that they hear because they haven’t grown to know what is true and what is false. Believers were being led away by false teachers and John wanted to warn them not to be deceived.

Christians live like Christ, that is why they are called Christians (Christ-like). Unbelievers live like Satan and live in consistent, habitual sin. Unbelievers can’t help but sin because they don’t have the Holy Spirit to guide them into righteousness. Jesus died on the cross so that believers wouldn’t have to live in sin (vs 7-8).

When a person trusts in Christ, they become a new creation. They are no longer a child of the devil, but they are a child of God. All of God’s children have new desires that are given to them by the Holy Spirit who lives inside of them. John says that a true believer “can not sin.” As we

saw yesterday, this doesn’t mean that we will be perfect. It does mean that we will not knowingly and wilfully practice sin (vs 9).

John said that if a person is a believer, it will be obvious in the way that they live their lives. Apparently, the false teachers had claimed they were righteous, but lived their lives in sin and didn’t have a love for others in the church. One of the greatest signs of a true Christian is shown by the way that they love others. True spirituality is not determined by how much a person knows or what position they hold. True spirituality displays itself in how much a person loves others (vs 10).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Maybe you are asking yourself the same question that I had about this passage. If we live either righteously or sinfully, and there is no middle ground? Where is there room for spiritual growth? God knows that we will not be perfect. Even the apostle Paul was grieved over the fact that he continually sinned (Rom 7:14-25). You need to understand that John wrote his letter to combat false teachers who were in leadership positions. They were supposed to be spiritually mature, and yet, they were living in sin. Though the things we do on the outside are important, the key issue is the heart. If you have a desire to do what is right, though you don’t always do right, it is evidence that you are a child of God. Spiritual growth is a life-long process. If you sin and don’t care about what God says, then you may not be a child of God. If you sin and care about what He says, you will repent of your sin and do what you can to avoid that sin again. By doing that, your works will show that you are a Christian.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for making you a new creation in Him.*
- * *Ask God to help you grow spiritually each day.*
- * *Praise God because He knows your heart.*

Thought for the day

How did John address the believers in verse 7?

Why do you think he addressed them this way (vs 7)?

Why do you think John warned them about being deceived (vs 7)?

What do you think it means to “practice righteousness” (vs 7 - ESV)?

Why do you think John says a person is righteous if they practice righteousness (vs 7)?

What did John say about those who choose to practice sin (vs 8)?

What has the devil been doing since the beginning (vs 8)?

Why did the Son of God come (vs 8)?

Who doesn't make a practice of sinning (vs 9)?

Why doesn't that person practice sin (vs 9)?

Why can't a true believer keep sinning (vs 9)?

Does this mean that if you struggle with giving into a certain temptation that you are not a believer? Explain.

What does a person's life reveal about whose child they are (vs 10)?

What two things does John say will give clear evidence that a person is a believer (vs 10)?

- 1.
- 2.

According to this passage, how can a person know if they are a believer or an unbeliever?

“Love Never Fails”

Study: I John 3:11-14

Reading: Luke 6:27-36, I Corinthians 13:1-7

Memory: Romans 8:39

There were times when my children were little that I had to tell them they couldn't have something they wanted or do something they wanted to do. This was not because I didn't love them, many times it was because I loved them. There were times I had to discipline my children. This was not because I was angry at them, but because I loved them. They did not always view my love as love since I didn't allow them to do everything they wanted to do.

Today, we are going to see the world will hate believers. This is often not because believers show hatred, but many times it is because believers show love.

What Does the Bible Say?

God designed love to be the most important thing in human existence. From the beginning of time, God has expected his followers to love others. Though it is something that we hear over and over, it is one of the hardest things to do. We are selfish people who like to put ourselves above everyone else. John knew this and used the illustration of Cain to remind us of our need to love others (vs 11).

Cain was the first child who was ever born on this earth. Genesis 4 gives the account of Cain and Abel (his brother) offering sacrifices to God. Cain brought a sacrifice of fruit and vegetables while Abel sacrificed a lamb. God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice, but not with Cain's since God asked for a blood sacrifice. Because of this, Cain became very jealous of Abel. His jealousy turned to anger and bitterness and his anger and bitterness led to murder. Though jealousy may not seem that bad to us, it is the first step towards greater evil. God wants us to avoid jealousy at all costs because it is the opposite of love (vs 12).

In his writings, John often repeats the same truths, but says them in different ways. Many times we get the idea that the Christian life is so hard and complex, but it is really quite simple. If we would learn to govern our lives by the basic concepts that John repeated, we would live

lives that bring glory to God. John told his readers not to be surprised if the world hated them. Satan tries everything he can do to stop the kingdom of God from advancing. He causes his children (all those who are unsaved) to cast hatred upon believers. This can especially be seen in some media outlets where those who hold to Biblical views about sin are mocked on a regular basis (vs 13).

Though the world hates Christians, Christians will love the world. We don't love the evil that goes on in the world, but we love the people in the world. The way we love others is an evidence that we are children of God. God is love and if we are His followers, we will love as well. True love is not a selfish love. Just as God loved us when we could do nothing for Him, we need to love others when they can do nothing for us. In fact, we need to love others who oppose us (vs 14).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Is your life characterized by hatred and jealousy? If it is, you might not be a child of God. If you know you are His child and you have hatred in your heart, you need to get it right with Him today. There are Christians who feel that they have a right to be angry at others. Many Christian Psychologists even say that it is okay to be angry. Anger and jealousy often go hand in hand and lead to spiritual deadness. God wants us to love others the way that He loved us. That means that no matter how a person treats you, you don't have a right to live in anger and bitterness towards that person. God has given you all that you need to love like He loves, but He has given you a choice. You will be amazed at how much joy and happiness you will have in your life when you make the choice to let go of any anger and jealousy, and you choose to love others.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Ask God to help you love others, especially those who seem unlovable.
- * Praise God because He is love.

Thought for the day

What message has been around since the beginning of time (vs 11)?

Why do you think John mentioned that this was not a new message?

Why do you think John places great emphasis on love?

Describe what it looks like to "love one another."

Who should we not be like (vs 12)?

What did Cain do (vs 12)?

Why did John say Cain did it?

How can you see this type of anger in society today (vs 12)?

Have you ever seen this type of attitude sneak up in your life? Explain.

What should believers not be surprised about (vs 13)?

Why would the world hate someone who is focused on true love?

****When we love others, we also have to let them know that what they are doing is against God's law. True love tells others that their eternal destiny is hell unless they choose to turn from their sin. People don't view that as loving, though it is some of the deepest love you can show.*

How can you know you are a believer (vs 14)?

What did John say about those who do not love others (vs 14)?

Take time to evaluate your life. Describe how your life displays love or the lack thereof.

“Hate or Love”

Study: I John 3:15-18

Reading: James 2:14-26,

Memory: Romans 8:39

I want you to think of the person who bothers you the most. Maybe they act weird around you or annoy you with their actions. Why do you think that others do that? Sometimes, it is just their personality, but most of the time it is because they are reaching out for love and attention. As you read today’s devotional, think about that person and your actions towards them. You might find that you need to change some things.

What Does the Bible Say?

As humans, we often put degrees on sin. We sometimes think that some sins are really not a big deal. This is because we face greater consequences for things that we view as greater sins. John wanted us to understand that sin is wrong before God no matter how great or how small. He told his readers that hatred is the same thing as murder. Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 5:22.

The end of verse 15 states, “and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” Does this mean that if a believer has a feeling of hatred towards another then they will not go to heaven? I don’t believe that is the case since there are times that believers let sin take hold in their lives more than they should. As we have seen before in I John, he refers to habitual sin. If a Christian allows hatred to dwell in him for a long period of time and doesn’t see his need to remove it from his life, that person most likely is not a believer. If you know you are saved and have hatred inside of you, you can understand from this verse that hate is a big deal to God. You need to confess that sin and remove it from your life today (vs 15).

John contrasted hatred with love in verse 16. One of the outward displays of hatred is choosing to take the life of another person. The natural outward display of love is the loss of your own life. The ultimate display of love is shown when a person gives his life for another. This was displayed by Jesus when He died on the cross for the sins of the whole world (vs 16).

John gave an example of what it meant to show true love. He said that if a person who has been blessed by God with earthly possessions sees a person who is in need and fails to help him, then he doesn’t have the love of God in Him (vs 17). John reminded us that true love is displayed in action. It is easy to say that we love others, but talk is cheap. True love is displayed by our actions towards those who are in need. This doesn’t just refer to physical needs, but can be applied to emotional and spiritual needs as well (vs 18).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you have the love of God abiding in you? John used this passage about love to apply to both the saved and the unsaved. If your life displays no love towards others, but is characterized by hatred, then you are probably not saved. On the other hand, Christians can fall into sin and allow hate to dwell in them. When they do that, they are shaming the name of Christ because they are acting like unbelievers. Christ wants you to be an example of Him, and, when you have hatred in your heart, you are not being that example. John wanted you to know that your life should be characterized by self-sacrificing love if you are a believer. True love means that you choose to give of yourself to help others out. As mentioned above, this doesn’t apply to just physical needs. There are people all around you who are hurting and need someone to reach out to them and love them. Normally, these people are the ones who are harder to love since they do things to bother you, often in an attempt to get someone’s attention. It is easy to talk about how bothersome or annoying a person is, but never do anything to reach out and help that person. If you want to be a true Christian and display the love of Christ, spend time with or do something for the person that bothers you the most.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God that He loves you even though you are not perfect.*
- * *Ask God to show you a person that you need to reach out to.*
- * *Praise God because He sent His Son to die for you.*

Thought for the day

Who does John say is a murderer (vs 15)?

Why is this such a powerful statement?

What does a murderer not have (vs 15)?

Does this mean that a murderer can never be saved? Explain.

How did Jesus display true love (vs 16)?

How can we display true love to others (vs 16)?

Describe what you think this may look like on a daily basis?

What scenario did John describe in verse 17?

What question did John ask in verse 17?

What point was John trying to get across?

Does this mean we have to give financially to every need that we see presented to us?

****In those days, they did not have TV and internet. They dealt personally with those who were around them, specifically fellow believers. Those who are blessed financially should be willing to give to fellow believers around them who are in need.*

How did John address the believers (vs 18)?

Why do you think he addressed them this way?

How are we not to love (vs 18)?

How are we to love (vs 18)?

Why is it easier to talk about love than to actually love?

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, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.