

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*



Monday

Study: Romans 12:9, I Corinthians 13:1-13

Reading: Ephesians 4:17-31

Memory: Matthew 5:23

Romans 12:9

What do you think it means to have genuine love (vs 9a)?

How is it easy to have fake love?

What can you do to help ensure that your love for others is real?

How should you view evil (vs 9b)?

Why is it easy to hate some things that are evil, but to also love some things that are evil?

What does it mean to “hold tight” to the things that are good (vs 9b)?

****The Greek word means to “cling to, glue, cement.” The term came from the idea of joining pieces of construction material together. When items were joined together, they were meant to be a permanent bond.*

How can you “cling to that which is good?”

I Corinthians 13:1-13

What are the most eloquent words if they are void of love (vs 1)?

What eternal benefit would there be to being the smartest man who ever lived, but being void of love (vs 2)?

How does verse 3 drive home the great importance of love?

Why do you think it could be easier to sacrifice things out of a selfish motive than it would be to love others (vs 3)?

The following is a list given to reveal what love looks like in daily action. Take a moment to describe each of these terms and think about how you display or don't display these in your daily life.

Patient:

Kind:

Not jealous:

Not boastful:

Not proud:

Not rude:

Not demanding your own way:

Not irritable:

Doesn't keep record of wrongs:

Rejoices in the truth:

Does not give up:

Is always hopeful:

Endures through everything:

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Tuesday

Study: Romans 12:10, Genesis 13:1-12, II Samuel 9:1-13

Reading: John 13:1-20

Memory: Matthew 5:23

Romans 12:10

What is "brotherly affection" (vs 10a - ESV)?

****The Greek word is "philadelphia." It is the idea of loving other believers with the same love you would have toward those who are closest to you.*

Why is it not always easy to love other believers?

What can you do to help you love others, especially when some personalities may bother or annoy you?

How are you supposed to honor others (vs 10b)?

What do you think it practically looks like to delight in honoring others?

List a few ways that you can do this for others this week.

1.

2.

3.

Genesis 13:1-12

****Abraham had traveled to the land where God had directed him to go, but due to a famine in the land, he had to travel to Egypt. God had blessed him with great wealth and led him back up to the land that would*

eventually become the land of Israel. He had brought his nephew Lot with him and God had also blessed Lot with abundant wealth.

What conflict arose between Abram and Lot (vs 6)?

What did this lead to (vs 7)?

How did Abram deal with this conflict (vs 8)?

How is the humility, love and the honoring of others shown in Abram's actions (vs 9)?

How did Abram follow through on his choice (vs 10-12)?

****It appears from the passage that Lot chose the much better looking land and left Abram with the land that was more barren. Yet, Abram didn't hold anything against Lot for this. This narrative gives us a little insight on what it looks like to prefer others.*

2 Samuel 9:1-13

****David had just taken over as king after the death of Saul. Instead of killing the descendants of Saul, David did something completely opposite.*

What does David do for the descendants of Saul (vs 1)?

How did David treat Mephibosheth (vs 7)?

Why was this treatment of Mephibosheth so amazing?

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Wednesday

Study: Romans 12:11, Colossians 3:22-25

Reading: Proverbs 24:30-34, Revelation 3:14-22

Memory: Matthew 5:23

Romans 12:11

What does it mean to have zeal (vs 11a)?

What does it mean to be slothful (vs 11a)?

What do you think it looks like to be lazy in the work God has called you to?

****Be cautious when thinking about this and answering this. If you compare yourself with others when determining if you are lazy or not, you are using the wrong standard. God has gifted you different than He has other believers. You are not told to try to work harder or do more than someone else. As you evaluate your life and your ministry to see if you have become lazy, you must first know what God has called you to do.*

How are you supposed to serve the Lord (vs 11b)?

What do you think this should look like in your life?

Colossians 3:22-25

What were slaves called to do (vs 22)?

****Though it is not exactly the same, in general, a bond servant would be similar to an employee of today.*

How were slaves not supposed to serve their masters (vs 22)?

How were they supposed to serve their masters (vs 22)?

Why is it hard to serve others this way especially when the one you are serving does not act the way you would like them to?

Why is it important to know that you are serving the Lord in all that you do?

How are you supposed to do everything you do (vs 23)?

What does God give us to help be a motivation to serve Him heartily (vs 24)?

Hebrews 6:10-12

What will God do for you (vs 10)?

****It is easy sometimes to wonder if your work and labor for Christ is in vain, especially when it does not produce the earthly results that you desire. This is why God, in several places, reminds us of the fact that God will be just and reward those who faithfully follow Him.*

What are you to show in your service for Christ (vs 11)?

Why is assurance that God will do what He says important when it comes to your service for Christ (vs 11)?

What shouldn't you be (vs 12)?

Who are you to imitate (vs 12)?

Who do you think this is referring to?

What will you inherit if you continue in zeal in the ministry God has called you to (vs 12)?

Personal Application

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How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

Thursday

Study: Romans 12:12, James 1:1-8, Philippians 4:4-7

Reading: Luke 11:5-13, Psalm 16:1-11

Memory: Matthew 5:23

Romans 12:13

In what do we have hope in this life (vs 13a)?

Why do you think you are commanded to rejoice in this hope (vs 13a)?

What do you think this looks like on a daily basis?

How are we to act when facing tribulation (vs 13b)?

What type of trouble do you think Paul is referring to (vs 13b)?

What do you think it means to be patient during these times? What do you think that looks like on a practical level?

What are you to keep doing no matter what happens (vs 13c)?

What do you think it means to be constantly in prayer?

Is this hard or easy for you to do? Explain.

What do you think you can do to make sure these three things are a major part of your everyday life?

James 1:1-8

How are you to view trials when they come your way (vs 2)? Why?

Why is this not always easy to do?

Why does God allow times of testing in your life (vs 3-4)?

Why is it important to remember this when you are in the middle of a trial?

What is your normal response when you are going through trials?

What are you to do when you don't know what to do (vs 5)?

What will God give you when you ask for it (vs 5)?

****God wants you to go to Him in prayer. He wants to help you and give you the abundant wisdom that you need.*

How are you to ask God for things (vs 6)?

Why is it important to ask in faith (vs 7-8)?

What do you think this means?

****When you try to solve problems with worldly methods and at the same time try to do it God's way, it will not work.*

Philippians 4:4-7

What are you to always choose to do (vs 4)?

Instead of worrying or fretting, what are you to do when anxiety comes into your life (vs 5-6)?

What does God promise He will give you (vs 7)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Friday

Study: Romans 12:13, Ephesians 4:28, II Kings 4:8-17, Hebrews 13:1-3

Reading: Genesis 18:1-21

Memory: Matthew 5:23

Romans 12:13

What are we supposed to do with some of the money God has entrusted us with (vs 13a)?

What do you think this looks like on a practical level?

****In the days when Paul was writing, many of the believers were suffering persecution and had great financial need as a result. We know that Paul took a collection in many of the churches he visited to take with him to the persecuted church in Jerusalem. We are not told exactly who to give to or how much, but the general idea is to be willing to give. This is not just giving to a church, but giving to help individuals who are in need.*

What are we to show to others (vs 13b)?

What is hospitality?

What are ways that you can show hospitality?

Why do you think that hospitality is becoming harder and harder to show in the world that we live in?

Ephesians 4:28

What did Paul instruct thieves not to do and to do (vs 28a)?

What were thieves supposed to do once they made an honest living?

Why do you think giving to others is an important part of the life of a believer?

Leviticus 19:9-10

What were those who reaped the land supposed to do when reaping (vs 9)?

****The gleanings were the pieces of grain that would fall to the ground in the harvesting process.*

What were the Israelites not to do when picking the fruit of their vineyards (vs 10)?

Why is this command given (vs 10b)?

What does this show us about the heart of God?

II Kings 4:8-17

What did the woman who lived in Shunem do for Elisha (vs 8)?

What did the women ask her husband to do for Elisha (vs 9-10)?

How did God bless this woman for her choice to be hospitable (vs 11-17)?

Hebrews 13:1-3

What should continue in your life (vs 1)?

What should you not neglect (vs 2)?

What amazing statement is given at the end of verse 2?

Who else are we to remember (vs 3)?

****This is most likely a reference to those who were in prison and suffering because of their belief in Christ.*

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Saturday

Study: Romans 12:9-13

Reading: John 15:1-17

Memory: Matthew 5:23

Several years ago, my wife went to a ladies' conference and left me at home with our very young children for a few days. I loved the time that I was able to spend with them, but one thing I found out is how much my children messed their diapers. At that time, I had two children still in diapers/pull-ups and it seemed like I was constantly changing them. Though up to that point, I had changed diapers on occasion, at that time I realized how much my wife did to take care of our children.

Today, we are going to see that our lives are like those dirty diapers. (Doesn't that sound nice?) We are sinful creatures who can't change ourselves. Left to ourselves, we would be messy all of our lives, but as we cry out to God for help, He will change us because we don't have the ability to fully change ourselves.

What Does the Bible Say?

In John 15:5, Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." This verse sheds some very interesting light on Romans 12 where Paul listed several things that believers need to display in their lives. When we read lists like this in the Bible, we often think that we have to change things in our lives, and while to some extent that is true, we have to be careful that we don't place too great of a focus on doing it ourselves. It is easy to think that we need to do all the work to change ourselves, but when we do that, we set ourselves up for constant frustration. Paul understood this as he declared, "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh." (Ro 7:18)

As you read the list of the things that God desires from His children, understand that you can't make these things exist in your life. The list is given to show you your shortcomings and to cause you to repent and ask God to change you. As you yield to Him and His control, asking Him for help, these areas in your life will change.

Since you have already studied these this week, the rest of the

devotional will be full of questions for you to ask yourself.

- Is your love to all men genuine or is it hypocritical?
- Do you hate things that are evil or do you like to ride the fence, desiring the best of both worlds?
- Is your life filled with a constant desire to do good?
- Do you treat other Christians with honor and respect, or do you often talk about them behind their backs?
- Are you striving to “outdo” (ESV) others when it comes to honoring and respecting others?
- Are you lazy when it comes to your spiritual walk and spiritual service for God?
- Do you sacrifice on a regular basis to make sure that you spend time with God or do you only spend time with him when it fits your schedule?
- Are you excited about opportunities to serve the Lord, or do you feel like it is just a duty?
- Are you a person who is constantly filled with rejoicing because of the hope that God has given you?
- Are you patient when things don’t go your way, or do you find yourself getting upset at God and others?
- Do you take time to pray on a consistent basis, or do you just squeeze it in when you think about it?
- Do you freely give your money to God, or do you have a hard time giving away your money?
- Are you sensitive to the needs of others around you?
- Do you seek to show hospitality to strangers and those who you know, or would you rather not inconvenience yourself?

Don’t be too anxious to close your book and be done today. If you didn’t take time to carefully read through each question, do that now. Ask God to reveal to you areas where you are failing and then ask Him to change those areas in your life. He will give you all the power and ability that you need to change, but only as you choose to get that power from Him.

Thought for the day

Sunday

Reading: Romans 12:9-13

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

www.biblegateway.com

Bible Memory

Matthew 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. 8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. 13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. 14 “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,