February 2

Salvation/Faith

Works

 So it is with faith – Read: James 2:17.

 Sometimes “works” are hard to define, outward religious acts such as going to church, fellowship functions, teaching Sunday School, they are all actions and hopefully done because we want to and not because we feel we have to, these are works but we must do even more than just our “religious” activities, we must show people we really love and care for them.

 We please God by our deeds that are done through love and that are good – Read: Hebrews 13:16.

 Hearing the Word is not enough, we must put it into practice, putting the Word to work in our own lives as well as helping others – Read: James 1:27.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Read: James 1:22.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my works be pleasing to you Lord, and may I never grow weary in those works, may they always be to your honor and glory.

February 3

Salvation/Faith

Work and Love

 Our work for the Lord is an everyday event, when we feed someone in need, visit someone in the hospital, or help someone that wants or needs our help – Read: Matthew 25:35, 40.

 We must not calculate our good deeds as points earned for getting ourselves into heaven, our salvation cannot be earned, we should help those in need because of our love and because we want to and not because we feel we have to – Read: Galatians 5:13.

 Those in need are God’s Children so in helping them we’ve served the Lord!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Acts 20:35.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me have the correct motives when helping and giving to others.

February 4

Salvation/Works

Church

 When we become believers we are members of the body of Christ and each member has a different duty as a member – Read: I Corinthians 12:20. Just as with our human body, there are hands, feet and a head, they each have their purpose. Same with the church, Christ is the head each of us have duties according our gifts.

 We cannot all be missionaries, ministers or even teachers because we all have different gifts, we sometimes feel we have no special gifts, our gifts do not have to be profound, maybe we are a good listener that is a gift, so many times people in need only need someone to hear their problems to help them to be solved. The important thing is to use your gift to the Glory of God. . – Read: I Corinthians 12:11.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Read: I Corinthians 12:12.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always remember that I am a part of your body, O Lord, and to use my gifts according to your will.

\*\* Extra reading at the end of these lessons on being part of the group but with special purpose..

February 5

Salvation/Works

Total Service

 Our lives in service to God should be a total giving – Read: Romans 12:1. This is relating to “Sunday Christians” we should bring our love for the Lord home being the same with our family and to all we meet as we are in church. We don’t have to be in the occupation of the ministry or another religious occupation to be a dedicated servant.

We must be in the world but not of the world – Read: Romans 12:2 and Romans 12:11. Service then must be from the heart, works done for show or for monetary gain is not true

service from the heart - Read: Colossians 3:23.

This is also a good attitude when working as an employee to put our best foot forward at work.

The HEART is where the love and genuine works come from in our service to the Lord.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Romans 12:16.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to dedicate myself to your will and to be mindful of the needs of others and to remember Christianity is not a spectator sport.

February 6

Salvation/Faith

Obedience

 Now don’t start thinking because of God’s free gift of grace that you can do anything you want to: lie, cheat, steal or even murder and God’s grace will forgive you – Read: Romans 6:15.

 Because you have heard, believed, confessed and been baptized you are now God’s – Read: Romans 6:16.

 Remember when you were a slave to sin? How one bad thing lead to another? How much energy it took to keep all that up? Now you can turn that energy into good and obedience in your new life in Christ. – Read: Romans 6:17, 18

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 8:31, 32.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May my obedience be always unto you, O Lord, and my heart be steadfast and true.

February 7

Salvation

Fruits of the Spirit

 Our new life is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and that should bring out the best in us – Read: Galatians 5:22-23a.

 We must allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit – Read: Romans 8:13-14.

What we possess certain things with Christ but also suffer certain things too – Read: Romans 8:17.

 In the days to come we will look at the “Fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace patience etc. What wonderful blessings these are, not only to possess, but to give to others! We can pass these blessings on to others by showing them that we possess such virtues after gaining knowledge of Jesus, being baptized and then we can share with them the good news of a risen Savior!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Romans 8:27.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me show someone today the Spiritual Fruits I possess, just by my actions and thank-you, O Lord, for such wonderful blessings, let me count them daily.

February 8

Fruits of the Spirit

Love

 Love, by definition is to feel a great devotion, affection toward … there are many kinds of love, romantic love, love for parents, parental love for a child and what we are interested in here, brotherly love, the kind of love we show towards one another.

 What should be shown for one another – Read: Romans 12:10. Sometimes it is not easy to show love to everyone, but with the help of the Holy Spirit we can learn to love one another.

 Love for one another is in our hearts, to have and show genuine love is very important – Read: I Corinthians 13:2. Paul puts a lot of importance on love in this portion of his letter to the Corinthians, we should strive for this degree of love – Read: I Corinthians 13:4-8a.

This is perfect love because it comes from God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: I Corinthians 14:1.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me to experience this perfect kind of love that only comes from you, O Lord.

February 9

Fruits of the Spirit/Love

Jesus Commands

 When the Pharisees asked the Lord what was the Greatest Commandment of the Law – Read: Matthew 22:37-39.

 It makes sense that these two commandments cover all the laws Read: Romans 13:10.

If we love someone we certainly wouldn’t steal his belongings, commit adultery with his spouse or covet his belongings, so if we truly love someone that love will cover the laws. Our neighbors include everyone, not just the people next door. If EVERYONE had this kind of love there would be no need for laws!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Leviticus 19:18.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Let me love to cover the laws and help to spread the Word of Love to others so we all can live in harmony.

Mailboxes

 I have a question for you – Have you ever thought about mailboxes and how they display the characteristics of Christians?

 Mailboxes stand, planted firm, waiting patiently to do the job they were created to do. Christians could take a lesson from mail boxes in patience and waiting for God’s timing.

 Christians may not always agree, but like mailboxes, have a united purpose.

 Christians survive many trials and tribulations, like mailboxes survive the snowplow, even if slapped upside the head and left in the ditch. We both have a loving master that gently picks us up and returns us to our place in life.

 Mailboxes come in many different shapes and sizes, but are only useful, like Christians if opened up and their hearts exposed.

 Mailboxes bear a name, with loving care, like Christians should bear the name of Christ.

 Christians like mailboxes send and receive messages, mailboxes cannot choose what message they accept or send, Christians on the other hand, with the help of God’s Word can discern what are the right and true messages to send and receive.

 One of the ways mailboxes differ from Christians is that Christians should never just stand in one place, but continue to grow and mature in their faith.

 In a group of mailboxes there are news paper and ad boxes, each having their particular talent and job rounding out the purpose of the whole group; just like in the church we all have our particular jobs and talents to complete the Body of Christ.

 As you drive by mailboxes now, think about how we are like them and the lessons we can learn from mailboxes.