Salvation/Faith February 2

Works

-So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead. 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 – Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God. 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 – What God the Father considers to be pure and genuine religion is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering and to keep oneself from being corrupted by the world. James 1:27.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice. 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.

Salvation/Faith February 3

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 – I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; ‘I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these members of my family, you did it for me!’ Matthew 25:35a, 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 – As for you, my brothers and sisters, you were called to be free. But do not let this freedom become an excuse for letting your physical desires control you. Instead, let love make you serve one another. Galatians 5:13.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: I have shown you in all things that by working hard in this way we must help the weak, remembering the words that the Lord Jesus himself said, ‘There is more happiness in giving than in receiving.’ ”Acts 20:35.

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

Salvation/Works February 4

Church

When we become believers we are members of the body of Christ and each member has a different duty as a member – As it is there are many parts but one body. 1 Corinthians 12:20. Just as with our human body, there are hands, feet and a head, 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. . – But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person. 1 Corinthians 12:11.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts; it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts. 1 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.

Salvation/Works February 5

Total Service

Our lives in service to God should be total giving – Offer yourselves a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Romans 12:1b. This is relating to “Sunday Christians” we should bring our love for the Lord home and display it in our family and to all we meet, 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 – Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God – what is good and is pleasing to him is perfect. Romans 12:2.

-Work hard and do not be lazy. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion. 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 - Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings. 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: Have the same concern for everyone. Do not be proud, but accept humble duties. Do not think of yourselves as wise. 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.

Salvation/Faith February 6

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 - What then? Shall we sin, because are not under law but under God’s grace? By no means! Romans 6:15.

Because you have heard, believed, confessed and been baptized you are now God’s – Surely you know that when you surrender yourselves as slaves to obey someone, you are in fact the slaves of the master you obey – either of sin, which results in death, or of obedience, which results in being put right with God. 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. – But thanks be to God! For though at one time you were slaves to sin, you have obeyed with all your heart the truths found in the teaching you received. Romans 6:17.

VERSE FOR TODAY: So Jesus said to those who believed in him, “If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31, 32.

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

Salvation February 7

Fruits of the Spirit

Our new life is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and that should bring out the best in us – But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23a.

We must allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit – Those who are led by God’s Spirit are God’s children. Romans 8:14. – Since we are his children, we will possess the blessings he keeps for his people, and we will also possess with Christ what God has kept for him; for if we share Christ’s suffering, we will also share his glory. 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: And God, who sees into our hearts, knows what the thought of the Spirit is; because the Spirit pleads with God on behalf of his people and in accordance with his will. 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.

Fruits of the Spirit February 8

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.

-Love one another warmly as Christian brothers and sisters, and be eager to show respect for one another. 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 – I may have the gift of inspired preaching I may have all knowledge and understand all secrets; I may have all the faith need to move mountains – but if I have no love, I am nothing. 1 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 – Love is patient and kind. Love never gives up. Love is eternal. 1 Corinthians 13:4a, 7a, 8a. This is perfect love because it comes from God.

VERSE FOR TODAY: It is love, then, that you should strive for. Set your hearts on spiritual gifts, especially the gift of proclaiming God’s message. 1 Corinthians 14:1.

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

Fruits of the Spirit/Love February 9

Jesus Commands

When the Pharisees asked the Lord what was the Greatest Commandment of the Law – Jesus answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as you love yourself.’ Matthew 22:37-39.

It makes sense that these two commandments cover all the laws – If you love someone, you will never do them wrong; to love, then, is to obey the whole Law. 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: Do not take revenge on anyone or continue to hate him, but love your neighbour as you love yourself. I am the Lord. 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.