



In the Grove — Long Overdue

September 9-10, 2023

We have more to share. Text **CONNECT** to **888-644-4034**

Doyle A. Jackson

I. How Close Are You to God's Kingdom, Life?

Mark 12:28-34 (NIV) **28** One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' **31** The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

32 "Well said, teacher," the man replied. "You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. **33** To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

34 When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, "**You are not far from the kingdom of God.**" And from then on no one dared ask him any more questions.

II. Blocking Peace

Genesis 2:1-3 (NIV) *Creation by God...* **1** Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

 God created _____.

Disruption

or

Harmony

III. God's Timing and Plan

Romans 5:6-9 (NIV) *God's answer to our broken relationship...* **6** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God

demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.


9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

 Jesus gave Himself for _____.

Ephesians 5:25-27 (NIV) **25** ...Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and **to present her to himself as a radiant church**, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 1:4 (NIV) *God chose us in Christ...* **4** For he chose us in him before the creation of the world **to be holy and blameless** in his sight. In love...

Romans 6:22-23 (NIV) *Slaves to righteousness...* **22** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap **leads to holiness**, and the result is eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 A new kind of life _____.

Confession & Prayer*

As brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, under God's mercy, we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. We worship You wholeheartedly, not conforming to the pattern of this world but transformed by new thinking. Enable me, Father, to test and approve Your will for life and the Church. Amen

***Romans 12:1-2** (NIV) **1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

This Week's Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

Sat. Sept. 9, Eze. 27-28 Sun. Sept. 10, Eze. 29-3 Mon. Sept. 11, Eze. 32-33

Tue. Sept. 12, Eze. 34-36 Wed. Sept. 13, Eze. 37-38 Thur. Sep. 14, Eze. 39-40

Fri. Sep 15, Eze. 41-43 Sat. Sept. 16, Eze. 44-45 Sun. Sept. 17, Eze. 46-47

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