

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (May 22, 2022)

FOR PERSONAL OR GROUP STUDY

This morning we welcome Sonny Salsbury and the reunion of his much beloved Gospel Press. The sweet sounds, and sweet relationships, of Gospel Press started right here at First Presbyterian Yakima when Sonny and Linda arrived in 1969, continuing until 1977. Reminiscing about the significance of those years, Robert Redman, a member of Gospel Press, wrote, "Sonny and the Gospel Press planted in me the seeds of a growing interest in worship. First, Sonny taught and modeled worship. His godly influence focused my discipleship and attention on God alone and for no other reason than serving God. He communicated the majesty of an awesome God in a winsome, even playful way. An avid outdoorsman, Sonny's songs used the grandeur of God's creation as the doorway to a deeper praise and devotion of God found in Scripture."

The passage for this morning comes from John chapter 13, verses 34-35. It is our clarion call as Christians, and it comes directly from Jesus ... LOVE ONE ANOTHER. He did not tell us we would be known as His by how nice we were to each other, how helpful we were to one another, how we taught and served one another ... we will be known by our LOVE. LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS JESUS LOVES US! His love inspires us, compels us, to help, serve, teach, be kind, give up everything because we LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Our love comes from His love, 1 John 4:19 "We love BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US."

Love God, Love others, that's who we want to be here at Grace. I am so thankful for the faithful, gracious, LOVE OF GOD working in us, and among us, all through the years!

Gospel Press Sunday (John 13:34-35)

^{13:34} A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (English Standard Version)

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What is Jesus' new command for those who follow Him? How is His new command different, and how is it the same as, the original 10 commandments (Read Exodus chapter 20)?
2. How can you know someone is a follower of Jesus, a disciple?
3. Can someone be committed to Jesus and refuse to love others? Discuss

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Why is love the central command for Christians? Read Mark 12:28-34.
5. Why is Jesus reminding His disciples of His command to love here in chapter 13? How does chapter 13 begin? What happens after chapter 13, in particular beginning in chapter 18?
6. What does "love one another: just as I have loved you" mean? How has Jesus loved us?
7. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

8. Do you believe, really believe, Jesus loves you? If yes, how do you know? If no, why do you think he does not love you?
9. What are some ways you can love others?
10. How should Grace of Christ Love God and Love Others?
11. How does knowing that Jesus loves you change your relationships with others?
12. Are you known for loving others? What are you known for?
13. What are Christians, in general, known for? Do people think of "love" when they think of Christians? If not, what do they think of?
14. If you are a Christian what changes do you need to make in your life so that you are known for loving others? If you are not yet a Christian what do you want to be known for ... and why?

Personal Notes: _____

As you spend time praying remember that prayer is meant to be the most natural, easy, and empowering, part of your day. Prayer is talking to God and hearing Him talk to you, knowing that He hears you, and cherishes you. In your prayers ask God to help you understand how much He loves you. Ask Him to help you love others, even those who do not like you and mistreat you, because you are so deeply loved by Him. Ask God to increase your love for Him too. God will help you because He is ALIVE and He loves you.