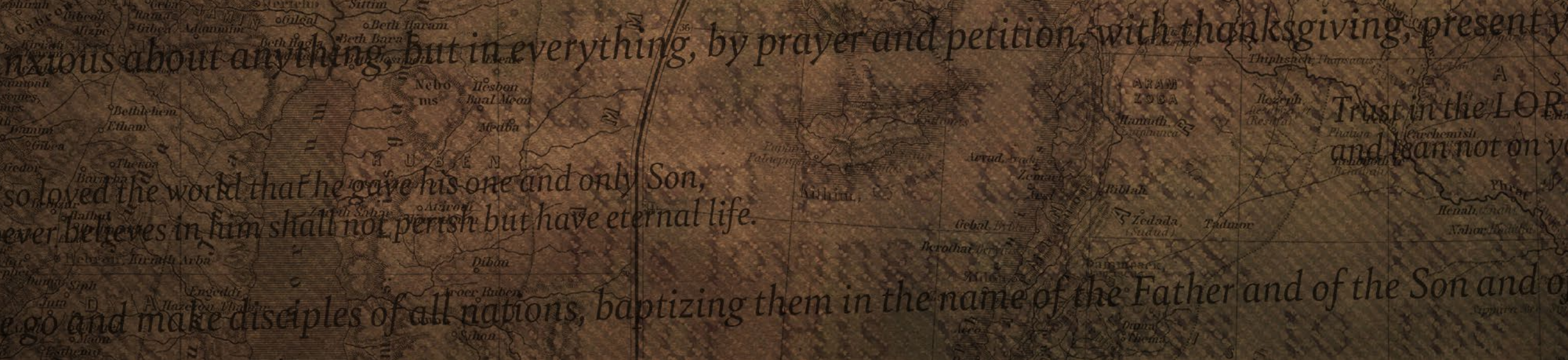


LOVING OTHERS LIKE GOD DOES

MATTHEW 5:43-48



You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

MATTHEW 5:43-45 (CSB)

For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don't even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don't even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

MATTHEW 5:46-48 (CSB)

THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW DOES NOT JUSTIFY HATRED

The sermon on the mount never contradicts the Old Testament Law, but it does challenge serious misinterpretations of that law.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW REQUIRES LOVING EVEN ONE'S ENEMIES

When an alien resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him. You will regard the alien who resides with you as the native-born among you. You are to love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.

— Leviticus 19:33–34

God's people are to love all people.

JESUS'S FOLLOWERS MUST LOVE EVEN THEIR ENEMIES AND PERSECUTORS

so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. — **Matthew 5:45**

Jesus Commands Us To Pray For Our Enemies

LOVING OTHERS INDISCRIMINATELY EXPRESSES GOD'S OWN CHARACTER

Like Father, like son. We should resemble our Heavenly Father in our character and our conduct.

We are never closer to God's own character, than when we love our enemies like God loves His.

LOVE FOR OTHERS IS AN ESSENTIAL MARK OF THE TRUE CHRISTIAN

*He that loveth not knoweth not
God; for God is love.*

— 1 John 4:8