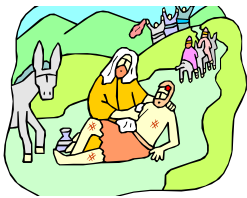


There was no Sept. "Good News Guide" because my computer crashed and it took several days to recover stuff. Thanks to the Lord and a good friend, all my data was recovered. To make up for the lack, I'm giving you two word search puzzles this month. B.R.

A Lesson from Jesus

A certain lawyer stood up and put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What is written in the law? How does it read to you?" The man answered, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." Jesus said to him, "You have answered correctly. DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE." But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied with this story: "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road; and when he saw him,



he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, he passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he had

compassion, and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii [about two days' wages] and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.' Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" And the lawyer said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same." (Luke 10:25-37)



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In this Bible passage Jesus makes some points that, in a way, rebuked this self-righteous scribe (lawyer) who was trying to catch Him in the act of teaching heresy. Those same points have very much meaning for us today, and we need to understand them and give them our attention.

The first point is this: **When you have a question about spiritual things, what does the Bible say?** Scripture tells us everything that we



need to know about God and His plan for our eternal salvation. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy

3:16-17) In other words, God gave us His word so that we could use it, so that we could learn what He wants us to know about Himself and His kingdom. Jesus emphasizes this when He agrees that the lawyer has correctly quoted the appropriate verse, and He adds the rest of it, that the lawyer omitted: "Do this and you will live."

The second point is one that we Christians often miss. **Love the Lord your God.** We tend to think it is enough to say, "I believe in Jesus." It isn't. Listen to what Jesus said: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.'" (Matthew 7:21-23) It's good to confess Jesus as your Lord, but it isn't enough—you have to let Him be your Lord! "If you love me," He said, "you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15)



Love God. Love Jesus. Do the will of the Father. Obey Jesus's commandments. All of these phrases mean exactly the same thing. God is God—that's certain—but is He your God? Or is there something else that occupies that place in your life? Maybe your own desires?

Do you pray only to thank God, and ask for more benefits, and tell Him how you think things ought to go? Or do you come to Him asking for His Spirit's guidance so that you can do His will

more faithfully? Are you one who is willing to serve God, but only as an advisor? Or will you, like Jesus, lay down your life if He asks you to?

I confess that I fall far short in this area. I come to Him on my knees, asking for forgiveness, guidance, and power to become what He wants me to be. I keep in mind these two Bible verses: "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for His good pleasure. (Philippians 2:12b-13) and "...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6) Knowing that God is for me and is working in my heart to change me does not relieve me of my responsibility to respond to His love by loving and obeying Him. But hey, I know He loves me, because Jesus died for me. I will keep trying to be what He wants me to be, even though I fail so often.

The Apostle Paul put it this way: "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God--what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2) Picture an altar in your mind. Picture yourself climbing onto that altar and lying down as a sacrifice to God. This is the kind of love and obedience that we owe Him. And if you find that you have fallen off of the altar, climb back on. By doing that, you'll know what God's will is, and you will see that it is good.

In the years since I first understood and joyfully received the Gospel—the Good News that Jesus has paid the penalty for all my sins—I have learned a few things. One is that God really does love me totally and unconditionally, just as the Bible says He does. Another is that. When I am tuned in to Him, listening for His Spirit's guidance, then anything I do to be obedient to His will brings me a blessing of joy. It never fails. Let me repeat that: it never fails.

Father,
Thy Will be
done...
not mine!
And And, keep telling me!

Jesus's third point is: Love your neighbor. Not just those in your family. Not just people of your own economic circumstances and ethnic background. Everyone is my neighbor. Everyone is your neighbor.

Love your neighbor as yourself. Do you love yourself? I do. I sometimes get angry with myself, and often feel disappointed or ashamed of myself, but I still want what's best for me. I do what I can for my own good. And that is the

essence of love, I think. Feelings aren't the main thing in love. Actions are. Your love for your neighbor is defined by your actions.

Jesus emphasizes his point with the story of the Good Samaritan. You need to understand that Samaritans were despised by the Jewish people at that time. They were considered worse than other non-Jews because they had broken away from Judaism and gone a different direction. Yet Jesus says that this Samaritan—this uncouth, no-good, despicable Samaritan—does the loving thing for the injured man, while the priest and the Levite—good, respectable Jews—do nothing. In fact they even cross the road to avoid coming in contact with the man.

Love your neighbor. In another place Jesus tells the disciples, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." (John 15:12-14) Jesus laid down His life for us, his friends; and we are to show our love for Him and for the Father by obeying Him—that is, by loving each other; by loving our neighbors.

The final point is about eternal life. Be sure you understand one thing—you cannot "earn" Heaven by loving God. Just as you don't "earn" enough oxygen to keep you alive by breathing. The oxygen is there, freely given to all who will trouble themselves to breathe. In the same way, eternal life with the Father and the Son is there, freely available to all who will receive it. God wants you to have it. Jesus died so you could have it. And you receive it by desiring it; that is, by wanting to be with God, on His terms (which is the only way it can or should happen—after all, He's God.) In other words, by loving Him "WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."



I'm praying this prayer for you today, as I write this: Heavenly Father, pour out your Spirit upon those who read these words, and show them the beauty of your love and your holiness. Give each of them grace to want to be with You more than anything else in this life. And let Your Spirit guide them as they try to do Your will and share Your love with others, so that they may receive blessings of joy today, and at life's end, eternal life with You in Heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Brother Roland

Holiness

Are you holy? If you belong to Jesus, you are, because He is holy and everything that is His is also holy. Our calling as Christians is to do all we can to “walk” in holiness before the Lord. We can do that if we allow His Spirit to lead us.

Puzzle:

F E E X P I L J I J N P U D E Y U A G F A X N Y S W K T
E G E N T L E N E S S P E E L P H T G O D Y O H Q C H G
T E N M L A R M U S D D P O I P J G O S O J S X J G K F
E W X I W Y S Y Y N N E B H I O Q R S M F D U S I A P S
R Z C F V T R A P A T E S G N I E B U O E W N L V I B I
N A S T J I M R M W D R B I L X J G S Y U E I E H O P D
A Y I O O F G M L I O R J O M C F S E R N F K S S A C O
L Q O N L J O B E W C Q R M B O E J J V L T R N S S W G
D E J J Q C Y N L O L T A I D N R K E X B O O I E C C O
E C I F I R C A S G N I V I L H N P K M W Y W G C S N T
L K M D Z E U U S O Z M P L C P T Q I T S T S W O P S G
I T B G O T H U C W U E U R N U B F L S R C D G R U C N
G U D B I F R F L B B F W W A I A S G A S W O V P T G I
H D K R B R L N O I T A C I F I T C N A S E G L G F Z G
T Q I I E E S L N A M K V X T X S S I T Q R N A N F L N
Z P H N S E C B G M M L V H K P F E M S J E C E O B E O
S U D Q R D L E S W G S F Y C O N U O P S Y Z R L L W L
O E X V K O G T U H L U Y O R W K M C B L E G T E O Z E
R Z I J I M T C F N L L M M V D L L E D P I N G F X H B
J N X L F F A M F N P M A T L A P B B V V I J I I E G W
G F O H G R A Q E C U T R E S T I N G I N T H E L O R D
X V H M I O G S R N I T Y D Z H I E N Z W G C S A D W L
E V H N M M S C I O K M D N V R E G C L K V D B N I O O
E L G N W S E O N T H E D I V I N E N A T U R E C O C G
F K I B R I N K G Y T I R U P L A R O M E C G V M N S H
P T C B E N O U R T R U E G O A L X Q S V P E H M P M S

Words:

Holiness is:

A LIFELONG PROCESS
BECOMING LIKE JESUS
BELONGING TO GOD
BEING SET APART
CARING
COMMUNION
ETERNAL DELIGHT
FAITHFULNESS
FORGIVING
FREEDOM FROM SIN
FULLNESS OF JOY
GENTLENESS
GIVING
GODLINESS

GOODNESS
JOY
LIGHT
LIVING SACRIFICE
LONG-SUFFERING
LOVE
MEEKNESS
MORAL PURITY
OBEDIENCE
PEACE
PRAISE
RESTING IN THE LORD
SANCTIFICATION
SELF-CONTROL

SERVING
SONSHIP
SPIRITUAL WORSHIP
SURRENDER
THE DIVINE NATURE
TRANSFORMATION
WHOLENESS
WORSHIP

It is also:

COMMANDED
PROMISED
GOD'S WORK IN US
OUR TRUE GOAL

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Jesus was a great story teller, but more than that, his stories always made an important teaching point. This parable teaches us that “Love God” and “Love your neighbor as yourself” are both important, and that “Love one another” goes beyond just family and friends. Enjoy the puzzle.

Puzzle:

P N E A G O O D N E I G H B O R E K Q D E E D X M E O F N V C
L K W S L N E S F F Z W T E S O M Q F K M B S V T Z N R O Z R
E L H P F J P I T I R A Q D Q E Z H P A J A G I K Y N M G O N
H C P A Z V B J X L L E H G L C V S S C W C V W B P D I B E F
T D N I M R U O Y L L A Y A N G W E H N V E Q D E X J H K R U
O P O D F A B H Y A D S S W O P H L A Y L S E Y A H G M E H A
N Y A N U K N O T N N U T J A T M T S A R S I H T I T L M I F
D E Y I M A U O Z R R N Q I O L I J D I S I F B E Z E L E K P
L C L U D R F I N E A Q I D D R T I X A C D X N N V G N F O W
U T T V S F H I J T Q E U N A N D R P S C W R R A M I L L A H
O T H O X O O M S E H O H M A O A T E H K U V R N W Y X E D A
W Y U E F U O R A E Y E A R S O S B T P O W T A D C T E S U T
Y L S S L R V N C V I S R L U E T G Y Y X N A N R Y P X R Z M
E W T U F A R X Q A E I E O I O N M E B A E A Q O G G U U F U
H B H X S S W K H H R F D R A E Y V I T D L N Z B L Y M O H S
T X D O M E B S T O T E P R R D O L I H I E Z A B U Y O Y G T
E U K R I V J V A T Y A H T K L O R L O K M K T E T N Z E C I
A Q E X H S L D H Y L M S L Q U A F L A W O L C D Y M H V P D
R H A L N H M E E E S R O P M M S O V I F L O T A F F U O V O
Z G W Y O D R Y F T U W R A A M V Y D M D S Y T U T D M L Y H
W L E F Y E S R N O S W A S H E D H I S W O U N D S T S U X J
A C U B T A L A Y E W E A S G H W S L A J J M L V Z A A O C C
H Z A O I E M L Q L I E T O Z K F N R B O O P H J L U G Y Y T
N R D M P T L M K L L G D S D E E N E H R E V E T A H W S C Z
Z I W T D A U D D M C H H C U I X B Z P S P O L I O S N A V X
E W R W A E P K S H T Q F B I B F S L L H L A F S E X N P L Y
M I Q O H C I R E J O T N W O D U J P V J I A X H Y V D R U T
H U L U R D G Q P C J N T M O R L X W L Q X J M O P W S M D O

Words:

AN EXPERT LAWYER
TESTED JESUS
WHAT MUST I DO
TO HAVE ETERNAL LIFE
THE LAW SAYS
LOVE GOD
ALL YOUR HEART
ALL YOUR SOUL
ALL YOUR MIND
ALL YOUR STRENGTH
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF
WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR
A MAN ON THE ROAD
FROM JERUSALEM
DOWN TO JERICO
ATTACKED BY BANDITS
BEATEN AND ROBBED
LEFT THERE TO DIE
A PRIEST PASSED BY
SO DID A LEVITE
THEY WOULD NOT HELP

A SAMARITAN TRAVELER
HAD PITY ON HIM
WASHED HIS WOUNDS
OIL AND WINE
TOOK HIM TO AN INN
PAID FOR CARE
WHATEVER HE NEEDS
THE SAMARITAN WAS
A GOOD NEIGHBOR
YOU DO THE SAME