

HOME BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Relationships of the Christian

- 1 -- **The Christian and His Government**
- 2 -- **The Christian and His Brother**
- 3 -- **The Christian and His Neighbor**
- 4 -- **The Christian and the Church**
- 5 -- **The Christian and God**
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Lesson One

"The Christian and his Government"

Dealing with **any** Government can be challenging; but living in America, our relationship to our Government should be much easier. It is also easier to be a "Christian" in this country; because, in some countries, you could lose your life if it were known that you were a Christian. It should also be easier to respect the Laws of the land in a country where an effort is made to be fair and just to all.

In 1958, a Presidential proclamation established "Law Day" to be celebrated (recognized, etc.) by the people of this country. The purpose was to:

- a) Encourage respect for Law.
- b) Encourage the American people to a greater appreciation of Freedom.
- c) Stress "Just Laws," and "Just administration" of Laws.
- d) Let the world know we are a country ruled by Law.

We believe that all who profess to be Christian should be happy and grateful for such high purposes and aims..... and attempt to uphold and honor these ideals.

TWO BASIC FUNDAMENTALS

It has been suggested that there are two basic fundamentals of our freedom that we need to recognize:

1. A regard for the Sovereignty of God. Our laws are based upon the understanding that there is a higher Being to whom we are accountable. The Apostles illustrated this concept.....

Acts 4:19-20 _____

The first Amendment to our Constitution states: "*Congress shall make no laws respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.*" As long as such is held to, we shall enjoy religious liberty; be free to worship, assemble, and propagate it; and as well serve God without governmental interference or control. Many nations do not grant this right to certain of their people!

2. A regard for the rights of the individual. His rights and his need to serve God should be respected (Matt. 6:33). These rights are recognized by the Courts of the land. They do not have the right to take away what is called certain "inalienable rights!" But at the same time, we are not allowed to use our rights to take away the rights of others.

Matt. 7:12 _____

RESPONSIBILITIES OF FREEDOM

Freedom does not come without a price to be paid—not only to secure it, but to maintain it. Two suggestions could be given that I am sure that we all can see the value of:

1. To hold a deep sense of Gratitude. The Christian's freedom in Christ was bought with a great price—the death of the Son of God (Rom. 5:8). The freedom that we hold "dear" in this country has come and continues to require a heavy price of sacrifices in order to have such and continue to enjoy such. When people cease to be grateful for the freedom that they enjoy, it may not be long before that freedom will be taken away.

Eph. 5:20 _____

1 Tim. 2:1-2 _____

We not only need to be thankful to God, but also for those who have given their efforts, and some even their lives, that we might enjoy this continued freedom. Unthankfulness is in the list of sins that the Christian is to avoid.

2 Tim. 3:1-2 _____

2. To be a Law-Abiding Citizen! One of the disappointing things that is happening in this country is the increase in "Law-Breakers!" Too many are showing disrespect for the Laws of the land that are fair and just. The Christian is commanded to be law-abiding!

Rom. 13:1 _____

1 Pet. 3:14-15 _____

To disrespect Law is the same as resisting God who ordained that there be governing powers and laws to regulate people's actions.

Rom. 13:2 _____

In addition to the above reason, God also gives at least three other reasons to be law-abiding Christians:

- a) **Because they are servants of God (Rom. 13:3-4).** Righteous people should have no reasons to fear the governing powers.
- b) **Because of our own Conscience (Rom. 13:5).** We should not only obey out of fear of punishment, but to keep our conscience

clear. This puts us on our honor!

- c) **Because, when we obey, we put to silence false-accusers (1 Pet. 2:13-17).** The first Christians were falsely accused by unbelievers of being disloyal to the state, etc. By being law-abiding citizens, it took away their efforts of justly condemning Christians.

OUR CHALLENGE

In addition to the above concepts, we are challenged by God to do the following things in order to have a good relationship with our government:

1. **We are to pay our Taxes (Rom. 13:6-7).** Sometimes it hurts, but it is a necessary thing that governing powers be supported.
2. **We are to honor or respect them (Rom. 13:7).** To honor someone is not done by disrespecting them, condemning them, complaining about them, etc., but rather we uphold them and cooperate with them (Jude 8-9).
3. **We are to pray for them (1 Tim. 2:1-2).** To pray not only that they will function in the way God would want them to do, but that we, as Christians, may live a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and reverence.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

In comparison to many countries, we live in a wonderful country in spite of its many faults. It is important that we not only recognize this, but that we do not take such blessings for granted. We need to take full advantage of this "freedom of religion." And by all means, let's be law-abiding citizens and uphold law and order in our midst.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Why do you believe that having a day set aside to honor law and order is beneficial?**

- 2. Should Christians join in the observance of a special day to uphold the rule of law?**

- 3. Can nations have just laws without believing in the True God of Heaven?**

- 4. What would be the basis (standard) by which such laws were established?**

- 5. What do we mean by the expression: "the rights of an individual?"**

- 6. How does one show his gratitude for the freedom that we enjoy in this country?**

- 7. Are we showing a disrespect for God when we disobey the laws of our land?**

- 8. What are 3 basic reasons for being a law-abiding citizen as a Christian?**

- 9. What are 3 basic challenges that the Christian has in regards to the governing powers?**

Lesson Two

"The Christian and His Brother"

Upon one occasion during this public ministry, Jesus emphasized the importance of love by saying that love for God and love for one's neighbor summed up the Law and Prophets.

Matt. 22:36-40 _____

But Jesus also emphasized the closeness that men should have in this new kingdom or church he would establish.

John 13:31-35 _____

He stressed that love for one another was new, at least, in the sense of loving like Jesus had loved them. The love of Jesus caused Him to give up His life so that others might live (Rom. 5:8). This new commandment was to be the central principle of a New Religious System among men. It was to regulate the relationship between brothers and sisters **in Christ!** Its importance is stressed throughout the New Testament—especially in the inspired writings of the Apostle John.

REASONS FOR LOVING

1. Because it is commanded! (John 13:34). He not only commanded it, but He also exemplified it!

Jn. 15:13 _____

2. Because such determines if we are a true disciple of Jesus (Jn. 13:35). Love for one another is possibly the greatest argument to convince the world that I am a follower of Jesus, the Christ! It serves as a testimony to my discipleship. An interesting side-line to note is that "loving one another" was a badge of discipleship for all to see. The Christian is not to be known for:

- a) His peculiar manner of dress;
- b) His peculiar customs held to;
- c) His peculiar speech;
- d) But....by his love for one another.

First century writers took notice of such in their writings.

- a) *"See how they love one another! They are ready to lay down their*

lives for each other!"

b) "Their master makes them believe they are brothers."

c) "They love before they know each other."

3. Because such determines if we truly love God (1 Jn. 4:20). Love for God does not exist where there is hatred of a brother in Christ. Love of the brethren is not only a command, but a test of our love for God.

1 Jn. 4:21 _____

4. Because such determines if we have passed from death unto life (1 Jn. 3:14). Death unto life is the conversion process. It is not only a change of heart (repentance), but such must be accompanied by a change from disobedience to obedience to God.

1 Jn. 3:16-18 _____

One who has been converted to God strives to walk a new kind of life after Christ. This new life is motivated out of love for God.

The necessity of love for our brethren should be obvious! This is not just a game we are playing. This is for real—high stakes are involved—for all eternity! It is not an optional, nor an ideal, but something that is practical, workable, possible, and necessary!

WAYS TO EXPRESS LOVE

John 15:13 _____

Rom. 15:7 _____

Rom. 15:2 _____

Rom. 15:14 _____

Heb. 3:13 _____

Heb. 10:24 _____

Phil. 2:3 _____

Gal. 5:13 _____

1 Thess. 5:14 _____

1 Thess. 5:13 _____

1 Jn. 3:17-18 _____

WHEN TRUE LOVE IS PRESENT:

1. Brethren will not bite and devour one another—nor fuss, fight, and argue!

Gal. 5:15 _____

1 Cor. 3:1-3 _____

2. They will put an end to envy, jealousy, vain ambition, and bitterness!

Eph. 4:31 _____

Eph. 4:32 _____

The change will be obvious for all to see! Unity will come and stay among such brethren!

Eph. 4:1-3 _____

3. Hypocritical love or insincere love will be put away!

Rom. 12:9-10 _____

Sincere love will produce peace, harmony, contentment, order and beauty in the church of the Lord. His love for us has humbled our haughty spirits and brought us to repentance.

4. We will always be ready to forgive!

Eph. 4:32 _____

Since we have been forgiven of such a huge debt, our forgiveness of others is small in comparison.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Who wouldn't want to be a part of such a fellowship! How beautiful for brethren to dwell together in love. The world will be attracted to such people.

Lesson Three

"The Christian and His Neighbor"

Have you noticed how that tree roots can potentially break a rock into pieces—all it needs is a crevice in which to start. **HATE** seems to have a similar potential! It has the power to break relationships into pieces. It can undermine business successes. It can ruin one's health. It can rob us of friends, leaving us lonely. It can drive men into insanity. It can lead us to be a murderer of people. It can eat away the finest qualities of our soul. It can shut the doors of heaven against us, etc. But by learning **LOVE**, we can escape the blight and terrible consequences of hate and enter through a door to a brighter and better world. No wonder that Jesus stated that *"loving our neighbor as our self"* is the 2nd greatest commandment!

The religious leaders of the Jewish people had put emphasis upon such commands as: the Law of the Sabbath, Law of Circumcision, and the Law of the Wearing Phylacteries. The Talmud had a list of some 613 Laws in the Old Covenant; with 365 of them negative and 248 of them affirmative or positive laws. Jesus, in contrast, gave two that summed up all of those laws!

OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ON LOVING THEIR NEIGHBOR

The Law was not without teaching on love for one's neighbor. The following Scriptures help to illustrate this teaching:

- Lev. 19:13** _____
- Lev. 19:17** _____
- Lev. 19:16** _____
- Lev. 19:15** _____
- Lev. 19:18** _____
- Exo. 20:17** _____

When Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan, it was an outright rebuke to these people who were ignoring the above teachings. The despised Samaritan loved his neighbor, but the Jews did not!

MAN'S LOVE OF HIMSELF

The Old Testament taught and Jesus re-emphasized the need for men to love their neighbor...as themselves! To love one's self is not condemned unless we love ourselves to the exclusion of others! Man needs to grow up and be concerned for others and not just himself only.

If we love ourselves, we will show it by the kind of actions that will benefit us, such as:

- a) We will take care of our body:
Eph. 5:28-29 _____
- b) We will uphold our good name:
Prov. 22:1 _____
- c) We will not speak evil of ourselves:
Eph. 5:28-29 _____
- d) We will see after the salvation of our soul:
Matt. 16:26 _____
- e) etc.

LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBOR

The Good Samaritan showed his love by doing the following things for this needy Jew:

- a) He gave up his time to care for the man.
- b) He put himself to an inconvenience of walking.
- c) He gave personal attention to the person in need.
- d) He spent money on the unfortunate man.
- e) He did not let society's attitudes lock him out from helping the needy.

Can you think of any thing further?

What are some things that we are taught to do to show our love for our neighbor?

- Tit. 3:2** _____
- Gal. 6:1-2** _____
- 1 Pet. 2:17** _____
- Rom. 13:10** _____
- Rom. 15:2** _____
- Eph. 4:25** _____

Some of the strongest teachings that Jesus did was his condemnation of the lack of love for one's neighbor! The following list can help to illustrate his teachings against the neglect of one's neighbor:

- 1. The Good Samaritan!
- 2. The Rich man & Lazarus!

- a) Poor Lazarus was laid at his gate begging just for the crumbs that fell from the Rich man's table.
 - b) He turned him away—He was indifferent to this beggar.
 - c) He wound up in Hades in torment!
3. The Rich Fool! (**Lk. 12:15-21**)
- a) He had much goods laid up for many years.
 - b) Yet, he had NONE to help the needy!
 - c) He, too, lost his soul because he was not rich towards God!
4. The Judgment Scene! (**Matt. 25:41-46**)
- a) They didn't care about the hungry.
 - b) They didn't care about the thirsty.
 - c) They didn't care about the stranger.
 - d) They didn't care about the naked.
 - e) They didn't care about the sick.
 - f) They wound up in everlasting punishment!

The writing of James, the Lord's brother, deals with the wrong attitude towards our neighbor, as well as wrong action!

James 1:27 _____

James 2:1-8 _____

James 5:1-7 _____

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Three attitudes are illustrated in the story of the Good Samaritan:

- 1) The Robber saw in the man someone to exploit.
- 2) The Priest and the Levite saw in the man someone to Ignore or avoid.
- 3) The Samaritan saw in the man someone to serve—to "love!"

Our relationship to God depends upon these two great commands:

- 1) To love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
- 2) To love our neighbor as ourselves.

Jesus made it very clear that our soul is in danger of being punished forever if we do not learn to show love to those about us—especially those in need.

Lesson Four

"The Christian and the Church"

In a society that emphasizes individualism, it is possible that this mentality will be held by some who have come into the Lord's church. This attitude can be seen in the following attitudes and actions:

- 1) They do not believe the church is important.
- 2) The church is something you can take or leave as you please.
- 3) The church is like a club that you can join it or not.
- 4) The church is just something that men have started for their own ends.
- 5) I can accept Christ and ignore the church.

Obviously, how one views the church will determine his relationship to it. Thus, it is important that we see how God views the church before we write the church off as a non-essential.

GOD'S DESCRIPTION OF THE CHURCH

1. It is something He planned before the world was created.

Eph. 3:10-12 _____

It took thousands of years for it to come into being. But finally, men heard the preaching of John the baptizer: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" (Matt. 3:1-2). The "kingdom" and "church" are the same.

2. He purchased it at a great price.

Eph. 5:25 _____

Acts 20:28 _____

In comparison to any other institution or organization, the church has cost the most of any of them!

3. It has an exalted head over it.

Eph. 1:20-23 _____

Headship carries with it the idea of: authority, chief concern, the one who is in charge, etc. No institution has a greater head than Jesus over His church. All things have been put under His headship!

4. The church is made up of redeemed people.

Acts 2:38, 41, 47 _____

The saved are constantly being added to this group of people.

5. It is a body of people that Jesus is coming back for someday.

Eph. 5:25-27 _____

Rev. 3:21 _____

Only those who have come into this "kingdom" or "church" will be the ones that Jesus plans to take back to heaven with Him.

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRISTIANS
AND THE CHURCH**

1. The church serves as a common body for "all" the saved!

Eph. 2:16 _____

Those who have been reconciled to God are in that "one" body of Christ.

2. It serves as a brotherhood of redeemed people.

Rom. 12:5 _____

Matt. 23:8 _____

The concept of brotherhood is closeness (family). The church is pictured in the New Testament as God's family (1 Tim. 3:15).

3. It provides an atmosphere and fellowship where growth and edification can take place.

Eph.4:11-15 _____

Spiritual growth for the Christian is not only important, but commanded by God (2 Pet. 3:18).

4. It provides a fellowship through whom God can work.

Phil. 2:13 _____

Eph. 2:10 _____

The church provides a collective means of doing God's work among men.

5. It provides a fellowship through whom God can be glorified.

Eph. 3:21 _____

Man has been created to bring glory to his Maker! (1 Cor. 10:31). It is in and through this body of people that glory, honor, and majesty is attributed to God.

It would certainly seem obvious that the church is something that God highly values—shouldn't we?

HOW SHOULD WE VIEW THE CHURCH

From the above study, we believe that the following thoughts should be our view towards the church:

- 1) The people that God planned for before the creation (Eph. 3:10).
- 2) The people purchased by the blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28).
- 3) The people God saved and redeemed to Himself (Eph. 5:23).
- 4) The people Jesus is head over (Col. 1:18).
- 5) The people that Jesus has promised to return for (Eph. 5:27).
- 6) The people that carry out God's work and thereby glorify Him (Eph. 3:21).

What does a proper view help to bring about in our relationship to the church?

- 1) It helps us to put the "kingdom" or "church" first in our lives.
Matt. 6:33 _____
- 2) It helps us to set our affections on things above.
Col. 3:2 _____
- 3) It helps us to be submissive to the correct head.
Col. 1:18 _____
- 4) It helps us to do God's work together, correctly.
1 Cor. 12:20 _____

What are some dangers of an incorrect understanding of the church?

- 1. It can lead to incorrect attitudes about the importance of the church as God views it.
- 2. It can cause a person to try to make the church something that God never intended for it to be.
- 3. It can corrupt the purposes of the church as God designed it.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Have you been evaluating your views towards the church to see if you have correct views? How important is the church to you? Are we truly grateful to be a part of the church that Jesus built? (Matt. 16:18). If you are not a member of the "body" of Christ, don't you think that it is important enough to engage your serious attention?

Lesson Five

"The Christian and God"

Men seek after many things in this life: **Money, Fame, Fortune, Power, Social Acceptance, the "Good Life," etc.** But, unfortunately, not many people really and truly seek after the true God of Heaven in order to form a relationship with Him! (Matt. 7:13-14). Yet, there are those, who like the writer of the Psalms, realize their need of God! He describes his desire for God in the following way:

Ps. 42:1-3 _____

What a vivid way of describing one's need for God and the satisfaction that is to be found in Him. Shouldn't all men seek after God, so that we can enjoy that relationship with our Maker?

WHY SEEK THIS RELATIONSHIP?

1. Because it is natural! He is after all described in such terms as our Creator, Healer, Savior, Deliverer, the One Able to Bless, to Guide us, and even to Save us from future Punishment. This "naturalness" has been demonstrated among all peoples from the early beginnings of human history.

2. Because a man will be discontent until he does seek for and find God. There seems to be a certain discontentment within man without God in his life. He is struggling for something beyond what he is. It is a longing that is unfulfilled. He can reach to the heights in this world, and still be unsatisfied. We believe that this is the human spirit thirsting for its Maker. We want to know the ONE who made us and why He made us. We want to know why He set us here on this planet and what He intends to do with us. And we need to know what He expects of us.

Jesus states that he can satisfy that thirst of man's spirit!

John 7:37 _____
John 4:13-14 _____

Only the living God can satisfy the cravings of the soul of man! Our hearts want rest that we long for.

Matt. 11:28-29 _____

Man may successfully suppress these feelings, but such numbness of feeling is not to be equated with satisfaction. It is like a man who goes on a 10-day fast. After 7 days, he no longer wants food and will slowly starve to death. We believe that it is the same spiritually! We may trifle with the yearnings of our spirit until the yearning ceases. And we will slowly starve to death, spiritually! But the lack of satisfaction is still there.

3. Because He alone can help us escape the just penalty of our sin. Until a man finds God, he is under the curse of breaking the Law of God!

Gal. 3:10 _____

Rom. 6:23 _____

Because of this fact, God's prophets have tried to warn mankind of the gravity of turning our backs on the God who wants to save us.

Isa. 55:6-7 _____

1 Chron. 28:9 _____

IMPROVING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Once a person has come to find God and has come into a relationship with God, he should naturally want to improve, mature, and deepen this relationship. What are some basic factors that I need to be aware of in order for this to happen?

1. I must want a deeper relationship with God! God does not force Himself on me. I must want God in my life—deeply in my life. Each of us may need to ask some very probing questions:

- a) Is my relationship to God as meaningful as it needs to be?
- b) Is my spiritual life lacking in depth and dedication?
- c) Am I pleased with my rate of spiritual development?
- d) Do I feel a need for renewal in my spiritual life?

We need to sincerely ask such questions to show that I really do want a deeper relationship. The self-righteous person usually sees no need for such questions or for such improvements.

1 Cor. 10:13 _____

Mark 13:15 _____

2. I must continually deal with sin that would destroy this relationship. King David knew that his sins had affected his relationship with God and wanted that sin removed so his closeness could be restored.

His expressed desire for this restoration is recorded in the following passage. See if you can find six requests that he makes.

Ps. 51:7-12 _____

When making the above requests, David also knew that sincere repentance was called for:

Ps. 51:16-17 _____

2 Cor. 7:10 _____

He realized the terribleness of his sin before God and knew it had to be dealt with correctly. Sins not dealt with properly (in God's way) destroy or undermine our relationship with God (Isa. 59:1-2).

3. I must make this the primary relationship of my life. God will not take a back-seat to anyone or anything. I can still have other, meaningful, deep relationships in my life with my **Mate, Parents, Children, Friends, Christians, etc.** But, they must NEVER challenge the primary place of God in my life.

Lk. 14:26 _____
Matt. 6:33 _____
Acts 5:29 _____

4. I must engage in those activities that help to deepen relationships. Closeness comes from intimacy! It is the revealing of our inmost thoughts, desires, and aspirations. But, at the same time, we also share our struggles, sufferings, sins, etc. This, of course, is accomplished through Prayer to God constantly!

Phil. 4:6-7 _____

This is accomplished also by listening to Him in the reading, studying, and meditation on His Word.

2 Pet. 3:18 _____
Jn. 17:3 _____

We also need to be engaging in those activities that stabilize our relationship with God, such as:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| a) Worship Activities | d) Those things that prove to God |
| b) Godly Living | that He is first in my life. |
| c) Doing good works | e) I really want a deep relationship. |

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

We can not only have a relationship with God, but one that is deep and satisfying—if we desire it!

James 4:8 _____

Have you found God? Is that relationship deepening into a meaningful one with Him?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. Why do men not seek a relationship with God?**
- 2. What are some reasons for wanting this relationship?**
- 3. What is the first thing that I must realize if I want to have a deep relationship with God?**
- 4. What is the chief factor that tends to undermine or destroy our relationship with God?**
- 5. What other relationships tend to compete with God for first place in our lives?**
- 6. What are some activities that I must engage in to have and deepen my relationship to God?**

Lesson Six

"The Christian and the World"

Unfortunately, there is a natural problem that exists between the Christian and the world. Jesus mentioned this in one of His farewell lessons to His close disciples.

Jn. 17:14 _____
Jn. 15:18-19 _____

How can the Christian overcome this problem of the world hating us, ridiculing and persecuting us? The answer is simple! The world loves its own, so we need to start believing and acting like the world!

Luke 6:26 _____

Of course, there is another way, but the likelihood of it happening is very small. It is to convert the world around us so they become children of God and love as God loves!

A CHRISTIAN'S OUTLOOK ON THE WORLD

1. To realize that we have quit the world!

2 Cor. 6:17-18 _____

Rom. 6:1-2 _____

We can't go out of the world, but we can forsake the wrong activities and attitudes of the world. We can be a separate community of believers in God (Gal. 3:26-27). We can try to completely separate ourselves from impurity! We can thereby "die" to the way of sin. The Israelite people had a hard time learning this lesson.

Num. 14:3-4 _____

The main reason we must quit the world is to escape its "just" punishment! We flee, as Lot fled from Sodom and Gomorrha (Gen. 19:17). We have also come to realize this great truth (see Scripture)!

Matt. 16:26 _____

If we gain all the world has to offer and lose our soul—we have lost the more important!

2. To realize that we must put off the ways of the world.

Rom. 12:1-2 _____

The Apostle Paul describes it in this way:

Eph. 4:17 _____
Eph. 4:31 _____

The world wants to "fashion" us so that we will become like them—to act and live according to their ideas.

- 1) Refuse to train and discipline our children.
- 2) The home and family are not important.
- 3) Women are not to be in a submissive role.
- 4) Homosexuality is an acceptable way of living.
- 5) Faith only salvation.
- 6) A religion that makes me feel good.
- 7) Any church is acceptable.
- 8) etc.

But the Christian must want his mind fashioned by God, not by men in order to please them.

3. To realize that I must quit loving the world!

1John2:15-17 _____

God makes it clear that we cannot love him and the world—a choice must be made! We also need to realize another concept in connection with this thought:

James 4:4 _____

The reason why we no longer should love the world is that such will past away and perish! (1 Jn. 2:17).

4. To realize that I have dedicated myself to the conversion of the world.

Matt. 28:18-20 _____

The world is lost and will perish! We have been recruited by God to help to save the world from eternal destruction by proclaiming His glorious Gospel of Hope to all who will listen (Mk. 16:15-16).

Col. 4:5-6 _____

The world is watching the Christian and will strongly criticize us when we act hypocritical or insincere. But they need us and they know it! We are their means of being called to God. We are to show our love for them, but not love their ungodly and unrighteous ways. The saving message must be gotten out to all, so that they can make their choice of which way they want to live.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Jesus tried to help the world see its true self as we can see in the following Scriptures:

Jn.3:19-20 _____

Jn. 5:39-40 _____

Jn. 7:7 _____

Jn. 8:21-24 _____

Jn. 8:43-47 _____

Those who have turned to God through Jesus in belief and obedience have dedicated themselves to quit the world, put off the ways of the world, no longer to love the world, and to try to turn the world towards God. The choice that the world needs to make is a simple one—become separated from the world or perish with it! What choice have you made?

