

LOVERS OF GOD

2 Tim 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. **2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves**, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, **unholy**, **3** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, **despisers of those that are good**, **4** Traitors, heady, highminded, **lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God**;

This present world is full of people that fit the description of those in the above verses. Pleasure lovers are never satisfied; they are constantly seeking pleasure. The personal financial cost in this search for pleasure is of no importance to those so bound in its pursuit. This worldly lifestyle, the “pride of life” is a consuming passion rarely abated. These pleasure lovers are hell bent on trying to satisfy the inner emptiness of the soul. Even Christians are being trapped by these “worldly trends”. There are only a small number who are in love with the Lord and qualify as “lovers of God”. (v.4)

Luke’s gospel and the book of Acts are written to Theophilus. It is of interest that his name means “lover of God.”

S.Song 1:2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for **thy love is better than wine**.

The kiss of His mouth is the intimate witness of His living word. His knowledge of us by the “Word” is the reason He speaks. His still small voice unrestricted flows forever from His lips to the beloved ears. Drenched with dew or rain (S.Song 5:2-6), there was only one response possible. The Shulamite woman should have quickly stirred herself to answer his call. What could have been a wonderful experience of greeting with someone she loved, became a sad missed opportunity due to her lazy response.

What is our response to His call?

Psa 2:12 **Kiss the Son**, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him.

S.Song 4:15 A fountain of gardens, a well of living waters, and streams from Lebanon.

This garden fountain ever flows with “living waters”. This is what the believer must yearn for. This will satisfy every inner desire.

Psa 42:7 Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

The pouring forth of God's waterfalls (waterspouts) quenched the spiritual hunger in David. He continually bathed in the refreshment of the incoming waves of refreshment from God. David's hunger for God gave him the real inner desire compatible to the depth of love within God the Heavenly Father.

S.Song 5:1 I am come into my garden, my sister, *my* spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, **O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.**

We can experience this great depth of love for God, much in the same way as the Shulamite woman experienced love for her companion. His friends are also encouraged to experience the same love.

Isa 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk **without money and without price.**

“Don't leave the wine of great price”. Everyone has the same opportunity to stay the course. Keep coming to the waters; eat and drink with God.

Mat 22:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not!

Jn 14:31 **But that the world may know that I love the Father;** and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

Jn 14:15 If ye love me, **keep my commandments.**

Jn 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and **make our abode with him.**

Jn 14:24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

2 Cor 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

This is one of the hardest hitting verses in the New Testament. This indicates that the believer alone bears the responsibility to keep their thought life captive. Every wayward imagining that is contrary to the ways of God is purposely put into captivity.

TOUCHING GOD'S HEART

1 Sam 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: **the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart**, and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over his people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

God is always looking for men that desire what God desires: men that are in tune with the heart beat of the Spirit of God. (Acts 13:22)

ACT 13:22 And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will.**

2 SAM 6:21 And David said unto Michal, *It was* before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: **therefore will I play before the LORD.** 22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and **will be base in mine own sight:** and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

David was not embarrassed when an anointing to dance came on him. He was totally free in the spirit. Many times our embarrassment brings dishonour to God. This was the case with Michal and God judged her.

Psa 63:1 A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. O God, thou *art* my God; early will I seek thee: **my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;** 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so *as* I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

S.Song 5:8 I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, **if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.** 9 What *is* thy beloved more than *another* beloved, O thou fairest among women? what *is* thy beloved more than *another* beloved,

JER 2:2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, **when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.** 3. **Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and** the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD.

God remembered the times when they were alone with Him. (v.2)

Israel purposefully followed the leading of God, not knowing where He was leading them. (v.3)

Note the phrase; “holiness unto the Lord”. (Jer 2:2)

Rev 2:2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them **which say they are apostles, and are not**, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.** 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Jud 5:31 So let all thine enemies perish, O LORD: **but let them that love him be as the sun when he goeth forth in his might.** And the land had rest forty years.

Our lives must shine for the Lord. Believers must declare His words and deeds. The Nicolaitans were a sect possibly attending the churches in Ephesus and Pergamum. There is a suggestion by scholars that they were idolaters. Others suggest they were followers of Balaam. What is certain is that God hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans. (Rev 2:6) Anything less than correct doctrine is bad doctrine. We must live according to the doctrines of the Bible. The good deeds and practices of those in sects will not be considered as overcomers and will not eat of the tree of life.

Jn 17:25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 **And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it:** that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.