

^[35] For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; ^[36] and a man's enemies will be the members of his own household. ^[37] The one LOVING father or mother MORE THAN Me is not worthy of Me; and the one LOVING son or daughter MORE THAN Me is not worthy of Me. ^[38] And the one who does not take their cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. ^[39] The one who has found their life will lose it, and the one who has lost their life for My sake will find it.

[Matthew 10:35-39]

You maybe asking me "Tom, what does this passage have to do with the *Blessings that come from Loving Christ*? In answer to that, look again at three simple words that are repeated twice in verse 37 above. These three words are "LOVING ... MORE THAN"! Please understand that our receiving the BLESSINGS of LOVING Christ, is based upon whether or not there are people or things we love more than Christ.

Now notice Matthew 10:38 in the passage above. Here Jesus said,

... the one who does not take their cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Do you understand what Jesus meant when He said "*the one who DOES NOT TAKE THEIR CROSS and follow after Me IS NOT WORTHY of Me.*" The Holy Spirit moved Paul to explain it better than I can. Listen to how Paul was moved to explain it in Galatians 2:20 where he said,

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I LIVE BY FAITH in the Son of God, Who LOVED me, and delivered Himself up for me."

Do you now understand that to take your cross and follow after Jesus is to metaphorically crucify yourself for Christ as He crucified Himself for you, to wash away your sins in His blood! Then in Galatians 5:24 Paul is further moved to clarify this when he was moved to say,

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have CRUCIFIED the flesh with its passions and desires.

The Spirit then moved Paul to also say in Galatians 6:14,

But may it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been CRUCIFIED to me, and I to the world.

Now look again at Matthew 13 and consider verse 39 where Jesus explained that,

The one who has found their life will lose it, and the ONE WHO HAS LOST THEIR LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT.

So, what about you? Who or what do you 'LOVE MORE THAN JESUS'?

One BLESSING that we will receive when we LOVE Christ as we should is found in John 14:13-17. Here we hear Jesus say,

^[13] "And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ^[14] IF you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. ^[15] "IF you LOVE Me, you will keep My commandments.

^[16] And I will ask the Father, and He WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER HELPER, that He may be with you forever; ^[17] Who is the SPIRIT of TRUTH, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, BUT you know Him because He ABIDES WITH YOU, and WILL BE IN YOU.

Then in John 14:22-24 we hear Jesus answering a question, Judas (not Iscariot) asked Him. Here,
^[23] Jesus answered and said to him, "**IF** anyone **LOVES** Me, they **WILL KEEP** My **WORD**; and
My Father **WILL LOVE** THEM, and We will come to them, and make Our **ABODE** with them.

^[24] The one who **DOES NOT LOVE** Me **DOES NOT KEEP** My **WORDS**; and the **WORD** which
you hear is not Mine, **BUT** the Father's who sent Me.

In John 16:26-27, Jesus then gives witness to the Father's **LOVE** for us when He says,

^[26] "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request the Father on
your behalf; ^[27] **FOR** the Father Himself **LOVES** you, **because you have LOVED** Me, and
have believed that I came forth from the Father.

Also, in 2 Timothy 1:13 we are instructed to,

Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the **FAITH** and **LOVE**
which are in Christ Jesus.

Now listen to what Peter said in 1 Peter 1:6-9, where he says,

^[6] In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, **IF** necessary, you have been
distressed by various trials, ^[7] that the **PROOF** of your **FAITH**, being more precious than gold which
is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at
the revelation of Jesus Christ; ^[8] and though you have not seen Him, you **LOVE** Him, and though
you do not see Him now, **BUT BELIEVE INTO** Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and
full of glory, ^[9] obtaining as the outcome of your **FAITH** the salvation of your souls.

In closing, consider the **BLESSING** Paul is moved to give us in Ephesians 6:24, where he said,

Grace **BE WITH ALL THOSE WHO LOVE** our Lord Jesus Christ
WITH A LOVE INCORRUPTIBLE.

Lord willing, I hope you will join me here again tomorrow, when we will consider some ways, some
expressed their **love** for Christ!

Please meditate and pray on these things! Will you please now join me in prayer?

Loving Father, I come before You Today giving You thanksgiving and praise for teaching us about
some of the blessings we can receive if we love Christ Jesus more than we love people or things in this
world. I also give You thanksgiving and prayer for the examples You have set before us Today. I now
give You thanksgiving in prayer in the Name of Christ the Lord. Amen!

Louise and I pray this will help to both enlighten and encourage you to ***know in a greater way*** the ***One***
Who promises in His Word to never leave us nor forsake us [Hebrews 13:5; Deuteronomy 31:6, 8]!

*BECAUSE CHRIST JESUS TELLS ME TO BE BLESSED, I MUST LOVE HIM MORE THAN THE
PEOPLE AND THINGS OF THIS WORLD.*

THEREFORE, I CHOOSE TO LOVE CHRIST EVEN MORE THAN MYSELF AND OTHERS! – tom