

The Gospel Beat

Volume III

2015

BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK



“If Anyone Hears My Voice And Opens The Door, I Will Come In To Him And Dine With Him, And He With Me.”

Rev. 3:20

INSIDE THE GOSPEL BEAT

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**For comments, information, or submitting articles:
Contact: Pastor Gail Roberts-House, Dea. Lonnie Thomas
or Dea. Kennosha Tyiska: Website: Opendoorfgbc.org**

(Loving God! Is it an Emotion, a Feeling, or a Decision)



Jesus said the greatest commandment is to “*love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all strength and with all your mind*” (Luke 10:27; Mark 12:30; Matthew 22:27). Repeatedly throughout the Bible, *God* commands *His* people to love *Him* with all their hearts and serve *Him* alone (Deuteronomy 6:5; 10:1; Joshua 23:11). But can love be commanded? How can we make ourselves love someone?

Since love is commanded, then it must be within our power, in *Christ* to love. Love, therefore, is a decision we make. Yes, love will often be accompanied by feelings, but emotion is not the basis of love. In any given situation, we can choose to love, regardless of how we feel.

The Greek word for “love” used in reference to *God* is *agape*, which means “charitable, delight, preference, or good will” This is the kind of love *God* has for us (Zephaniah 3:17; John 3:16). First John 4:19 says, “*We love because He first loved us.*” Since *God* is love and we are created in *His* image, we can love as *He* does (1 John 4:16). *He* has placed *His* capacity to love within our hearts. *He* then teaches us how to love by demonstrating what real love looks like (John 15:13).

Loving *God* begins with a decision. It is a intentional setting of our affections (Colossians 3:2) We cannot truly love *God* until we know *Him*. Even the faith to believe in *God* is a gift from *Him* (Ephesians 2:8-9). When we accept *His* gift of eternal life through *Christ*, *God* gives us *His* Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19). The Spirit of *God* dwelling within a believing heart begins to produce characteristics of *God*, the first of which is love (Galatians 5:22). *God Himself* enables us to love *Him* as *He* deserves to be loved (1 John 4:7).

As we grow in knowledge and understanding of who *God* is, we begin to love the characteristics that define *Him*, such as wisdom, truth, righteousness, and purity (Psalm 11:7; 90:12; Hebrews 1:9; 1 Timothy 6:11). And we begin to find the opposite of those characteristics disgusting (Proverbs 8:13; Psalm 97:10). Spending time with *God* causes our hearts to hunger for holiness, and we find satisfaction only in more of *Him*, because *He* is the perfect idea of everything we long for.

Learning to worship *Him* “in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24) allows us to experience the pleasurable emotions of love. Emotion does not create love, but, when we choose to love, the emotion comes.

One thing that blocks us from loving *God* is the love of this world’s sinful ways. We cannot serve two masters (Matthews 6:24), and neither can we love *God* and the world at the same time. “*Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them*” (1 John 2:15). Many believers today need to pay attention to the word given to the Ephesian church: “*You have forsaken the love you had at first*” (Revelation 2:4). The call is for a conscious returning of the affections to *God* alone.

Another thing that blocks us from loving *God* is the mind. Our minds continually set themselves up against the knowledge of *God* and challenge the faith that has made its home within our spirits (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Doubt, anger, misunderstanding, and false beliefs can rob all of us from life's highest pleasure and closeness with **God**. (**Philippians 3:8**). These things can be overcome through repentance and a determination to seek **God** above all else (**Matthew 6:33; Jeremiah 29:13**). In order to truly love **God**, we must stop insisting that **God** explain **Himself** to our satisfaction.

We have to crucify our pride and our right to approve of **His** ways and allow **Him** to be **God** in our lives. when we humbly recognize that **He** alone is worthy of our love and worship, we can completely give up ourselves to loving **Him** for who **He** is.

The Deacon

(Obedience)

We all can remember incidents when we have disobeyed. Whether it was against an authority figure, a law of the land, or a **Biblical** principle. Most likely, we even remember our punishment or the consequences we suffered. The act of disobedience brings guilt, sadness, and shame.

There is no long-lasting pleasure in getting our own way. It brings grief to our heavenly **Father** because **He** longs for us to walk with **Him**. Our disobedience separates us from **Him**. Yet **God** extends **His** grace toward us even when we disobey **His Word**. Therefore, our response should be to seek **His** forgiveness with a repentant heart and to learn from the consequences of our disobedience.

The choice of obedience is blessed with a heart filled with joy and peace. No matter how you may be ridiculed or how hard it may be to follow **God's** guidance, obedience is its own reward. **Jesus** lived a life of obedience. **His** earthly ministry was to do the will of **His Father**. However, **He** did have a choice and **He** said, "**Not my will, but yours**" (Luke 22:42). The **Lord** desires our obedience. But **He** never demands it. The choice is ours. Commit your life to **Christ**. **He** enables you to walk in obedience.

To be disobedient is to hinder someone else's blessing, not to mention your own. Throughout scripture we see the repercussions of disobedience time and time again. Cain's rebellion resulted in Abel's murder. King Saul's wickedness resulted in the loss of the kingship for his descendants and the eventual deaths of his family. King Manasseh's idolatry cemented the downfall of the nation of Judah. And disobedience led to Jesus' betrayal.

All of these individuals had choices to make, important moments of decisions, and critical crossroads which they encountered along life's journey. Yet, each of them gave in to the temptations of the flesh, the desire for pride and power, and the tide of popular opinion. And in the end, all of them reaped the painful consequences of their disobedience.

God earnestly desires men and women who are eager to serve **Him** and to demonstrate their love for **Him** by being obedient to **His Word**. **God** simply states in John 14:15 that "**If you love me, you will obey what I command.**" **Jesus** was always about the **Father's** business while **He** was on earth. **He** never had **His** own agenda, selfish ambitions, or a stubborn will. **His** desire was to please **His Father** and do the work **He** was predestined to do. In Ephesians 2:10 we are "**God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**" **God** put each of us on this earth for a specific reason and a predetermined purpose.

Are you being obedient to the call on your life? **God** chooses to use you because you are most suited to minister to the people in your arena of influence. It is not by chance you have the relatives, friends, job, and church family that you do. **God** led you wherever you are for a reason. Pray today that the **Lord** will begin showing you the destiny **He** has for you. Ask Him to help you be obedient to His will for your life. Are you willing to serve Him whatever the cost?

Submitted by Angie Thomas

(A Boy's Lunch Basket)

The disciples came to *Jesus*, telling *Him* about the people they had healed and taught in Galilee. Now more and more people heard about *Jesus*. They came from everywhere to hear and see *Him*.

The people were so eager to hear *Jesus* and have their loved ones healed that were always with *Him*. *He* didn't have time to rest or even to eat. So *Jesus* called *His* twelve disciples to *Him* and said, "*Come with Me to a quiet place, for we must rest awhile.*"

In this great crowd were five thousand men besides all the women and children. When they left home, they did not know they would have to go so far to find *Jesus*. One boy, however, had not forgotten his lunch basket. In it were little loaves of barley bread and two small fish.

The boy heard *Jesus* talking about what to do. He went up to Andrew, showed him his lunch basket and offered to give the food to *Jesus*. Andrew told *Jesus* about the boy's offer.

"How many loaves are there in the basket?" asked *Jesus*. "Only five and two fish" said Andrew. "But will that be among so many people?" "*Bring it to me,*" *Jesus* replied. To the disciples *He* said, "*Make the people sit down in groups of fifty and a hundred.*"

Jesus took the loaves and fish, gave thanks and broke the food into small pieces. *He* filled A basket for each disciple to pass among the hungry people. When the crowd had eaten all they wanted, *Jesus* had the disciples gather up all the food that was left. There were twelve baskets full.

The miracle excited the people. They wanted *Jesus* to become their king. How wonderful it would be to have a king who could feed them by working miracles.

Jesus would not allow the people to make *Him* king. *He* had not come to earth to rule an earthly kingdom. *He* commanded *His* disciples to enter the ship and return to the other side of the sea. Sending the people away, *He* went alone up the mountain to pray.

This story comes from **Matthew 14:13-23; Mark 6:30-46, Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15**

Life Lessons Learned From Noah's Ark

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground.

Seven: For safety's sake. Travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there is always a rainbow waiting.

Submitted by Deacon Kennosha Tyiska

A Prayer

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.

I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things.

I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.

I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.

I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.

I am among all men most richly blessed.

The Deacon

Biblical Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. the Mount of Olives will be _____ in two from east to (Zech 14:4)
6. husband of Jezebel (I King 19:1)
10. bring forth _____, and thou shalt call his name JESUS (1,3) (Matt 1:21) KJV
14. The _____ has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry (Prov. 30:15)
15. and came to a place called _____ Havens (Acts7:8)
16. as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be _____ (Gen 48:5)
17. a man of understanding and knowledge maintains _____ (Prov 28:2)
18. The _____ of man will be brought low (Isa 2:17)
20. The _____ is also unclean; although it has a split hoof (Deut 14:8)
21. the oaks of Bashan have they made thine _____ (Ezek 27:6) KJV
23. Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and _____ him (Matt 26:49)
24. upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the _____ apostles (Acts 1:26)
26. viper along the path, that bites the horse's _____ (Gen 49:17)
28. if he _____ for an egg, will give him a scorpion? (Luke 11:12)
30. people stood watching, and the rulers even _____ at him (Luke 23:35)
34. He _____ on the ground, and made clay of the spittle (John 9:6) KJV

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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17						18				19				
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			28			29		30				31	32	33
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40				41					42			43		
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71						72				73				

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37. The traitor betrays, the looter takes _____ (Isa 21:2)
39. away from the truth and tur. a around my head (Jonah 2:5)
40. a quarter of a _____ of seed pods for five shekels (II Kings 6:25)
41. the deep surrounded me; _____ was wrapped around my head (Jonah 2:5)
43. her firstborn _____: and he called his name JESUS (Matt 1:25)
44. Be on guard! Be _____ You do not know when (Mark 13:33)
46. was found to have a _____ mind and knowledge (Dan 5:12)

47. upon the _____ of the robe pomegranates of blue Ex 39:24) KJV
48. The price for his _____ is to be based on the rate paid (Lev 25:50)
50. and your hands _____ out violence on the earth (Ps 58:2)
52. My soul _____ rest in God alone (Ps 62:1)
54. At the end of the seven _____ they will begin (Ezek 39:14)
58. King Xerxes imposed tribute throughout the _____ (Est 10:1-2)
61. he _____ the foundation and is not able to finish it (Luke 14:29)

63. all the hills once cultivated by the ____ (Isaiah 7:25)
64. remember what Balak king of Moab ____ (Mic 6:5)
66. men ____ into the city that day as men steal in (2 Sam 19:3)
68. rabbit (Deut 14:7) (KJV)
69. LORD shall smite Israel, as a ____ is shaken (1 King 14:15)
70. I mean not that other men be ____, and ye burdened (2 Cor 8:13) (KJV)
71. And ____ begat Jesse, and Jesse begat David (Ruth 4:22)
72. silver in two bags, with two ____ of clothing (2 Kings 5:23)
73. I also want women to ____ modestly, with decency (1 Tim 2:9)

Down

1. like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a ____ (Mic 1:4)
2. He has delivered us from such a deadly ____ (2 Cor 1:10)
3. The upper ____ also is square (Ezek 43:17)
4. looked like an expanse, sparkling like ____, and awesome (Ezek 1:22)
5. I am in the ____ of death, but I'm still alive (2 Sam 1:9)
6. Bring my sons from ____ and my daughters (Isa 43:6)
7. all the ____ words ungodly sinners have spoken (Jude 15)
8. Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the ____ have nests (Matt 8:20)

9. The bows of the warriors are ____ (1 Sam 2:4)
10. increases his wealth by exorbitant interest ____ it for another (Prov 28:8)
11. to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your ____ are forgiven." (Matt 9:2)
12. The death he died, he died to sin ____ for all (Rom 6:10)
13. I have ____ to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? (Matt 3:14) KJV
19. ____ is mine, and Manasseh is mine (Ps 60:7)
22. the headdresses and ____ chains and sashes (Isa 3:20)
25. a large open container for holding liquids
27. let each ____ other better than themselves (Phil 2:3)
29. vinegar was there, so they ____ a sponge in it (John 19:29)
31. Awake, and ____ to my defense! Contend for me, my God (Ps 35:23)
32. another name for Esau (Gen 36:7-8)
33. Then the beasts go into ____, and remain (Job 37:8)
34. it is only a ____ from the boil (Lev 13:23)
35. before me was a ____ horse! Its rider was named Death (Rev 6:8)
36. another seed instead of ____, whom Cain slew (Gen 4:25)
38. ____ no man any thing, but to love one another (Romans 13:8) KJV
47. as a ____ doth gather her brood under her wings (Luke 13:34) KJV

49. your laws are far from him; he ____ at all his enemies (Ps 10:5)
41. It was reached by a flight of ____ (Ezek 40:49)
42. I will be an ____ unto thine enemies (Exodus 23:22) KJV
45. wines on the lees well ____ (Isa 25:6)
51. Moses ____ it into the air, and festering boils broke out (Ex 9:10)
53. vines with hail and their sycamore-figs with ____ (Ps 78:47)
55. Remember the former things, ____ of long ago (Isa 46:9)
56. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with ____ in it (Hag 1:6)
57. only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many ____ (John 12:24)
58. the wall will cry out, and the, beams of the woodwork will ____ it (Hab 2:11)
59. the princes of ____ abode with Balaam (Num 22:8)
60. He that hath clean hands, and a ____ heart (Ps 24:4) KJV
62. If anyone ____ anything to them, God will add to him (Rev 22:18)
65. we sailed to the ____ of Crete, opposite Salmone (Acts 27:7)
67. papyrus basket for him and coated it with ____ and pitch (Exodus 2:3)

Open Door Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship

105 East Cummings Ave. Hampton, VA 23666

Church Office: (757) 727-0205 Fax : (757) 727-0242

Email: odbc0689@aol.com

Website: opendoorfgbc.org

Gail Roberts - House, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 9:30AM

Monday	II Samuel 6:14 Liturgical Dance Ministry	6:00pm
1st Tuesday	Leadership Council Meeting	6:30pm
Wednesday	Intercessory Prayer	6:00pm
	Hour of Power Word Study	6:30pm
	Music Ministry Rehearsal	7:30pm
Thursday	TGIF Prayer	5:45am
	Call 712-432-3066 Access Code 665579	
2nd Thursday	Deacon Ministry	6:00pm
2nd Saturday	Food Ministry Meeting	12:30pm
2nd & 4th Saturday	Food Distribution	11:00am
3rd Saturday	Men Ministry	9:00am
3rd Saturday	Women Ministry	10:00am
3rd Sunday	Men Ministry Meeting	11:30am
1st Saturday	Shepherd's Care Ministry	12:00pm
4th Thursday	Youth and Adult Ministry	7:00pm
4th Saturday	Ushers Ministry Meeting	12:30pm
Office Admin.	Crystal Lyons	727-0205
Deacon Ministry	Deacon Anne Hawk	723-3739
Trustee Ministry	Trustee Phyllis Davis	766-1041

