

1Jn3:19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.  
3:20 For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.  
3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.  
3:22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.  
3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.  
3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

[From today's sermon.

Last week's passage included this one: "The Lord laid down His life for us. By this we have learned the meaning of love. Therefore we also should lay down our lives for our brothers. Therefore we also ought to lay down our lives for our brethren...Children. Let us love one another not with words or with our lips, but with deeds and with truth.

It goes on to say, "Let us love one another in truth and in deed. And he goes on to say, "Let us love one another in deed and in truth, so that we may know that we are of the truth, and that we may be reconciled to one another. Then let us rest our hearts in the presence of God. For if there be any reproach in our hearts, God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things. How deeply do we know God's love, and how deeply do we carry that love in our hearts as food for our minds and guidelines for our lives? How deeply do we know God's love, and how deeply do we carry that love in our hearts as food for our minds and guidelines for our lives? This is how we will know if we belong to the truth. Even if we have conflicts in our hearts, even if we wonder if we are doing the right thing, even if we feel guilt in our hearts, we can be at peace by living in that love, and a sincere confession that we are "keeping God's commandments and doing what He wills" will make us whole. It also says that our sincere confession that we "keep God's commandments and do what He wills" makes us whole and brings us the certainty of receiving what we desire. So much so that the Bible tells us that believing in the Lord Jesus and living in His love is at the core of what we do.

Good morning everyone.

It is now July. The rainy season has ended and the days have been over 30 degrees Celsius, as if summer is in full swing.

Last week's Bible verse said this. And it leads us to today's Bible verse.

3:16 He laid down his life for us, so that we might know the knowledge of love. Through this we have learned the meaning of love. Therefore we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

3:14 For we know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brother. He who does not love remains in death.

3:11 We ought to love one another. 3:11 We ought to love one another, for this is the sign which ye have heard from the beginning.

3:18 Children! Let us not love one another only with words or with our lips, but let us love one another in deed and in truth.

3:19 That we may know that we are of the truth. 3:20 And let us rest our hearts in the presence of God.

How much of our faith, our lives, and our love is guided now by the love of God manifested in Jesus Christ!

How Jesus did everything he could to bring us from death to life, even to the point of sacrificing his life to bring us into the light.

Jesus has done salvation for us, but salvation does not end with redemption. Salvation is fulfilled when we are saved, made sons of God, cleansed, and strengthened to do the works of Jesus, just as He did them.

3:16 He laid down His life for us, that we might live. By this we have learned the meaning of love. Therefore we also ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

But if we have been born again, and have been born again by God, then in that new birth, just as a newborn baby grows up to adulthood, so we too, if we are born as Christians, must grow up to adulthood. If we were born as Christians, there must be a next stage in our lives as Christians: growing up.

1 Peter 2:1 Therefore put away all malice, all falsehood, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2:2 As newborn babes, seek the sincere milk of the Spirit. 2:2 Seek ye the milk of the Spirit without mixture, as newborn babes, that ye may grow up thereby, and that ye may enter into

salvation.

2:3 Ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious, and ye have known that he is gracious.

1 Corinthians 3:1 Brethren. I could not speak to you as to a man of the spirit, but rather as to one who is of the flesh, that is, to an infant in Christ.

3:2 I gave you milk to drink, and no hard food. For the strength to eat was not yet in you. Even now you have not the strength to do so.

3:3 For ye are yet men of flesh. Is there not envy and strife among you, because you are men of flesh, walking as common men?

Hebrews 5:12 You have been teachers long ago, and now you need to be taught by men the rudiments of the word of God again. 5:13 For you do not need hard food, but milk.

5:13 For he who drinks all milk is a little child, and cannot taste the word of righteousness.

5:14 But hard food is for adults who have been trained with a discerning sense of right and wrong.

6:1 Let us therefore leave the rudiments of the doctrine of Christ behind us, and let us go on to perfection. Now more than ever, repentance of dead works and faith in God,

6:2 Let us not learn again and again the basic doctrines of the washing, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment, 6:3 but let us learn the forgiveness of God, and the forgiveness of sins, and the forgiveness of sins.

6:3 With God's permission let us do so.

6:4 And once we have received the light, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and are partakers of the Holy Ghost, 6:5 And have received the goodness of God, and have received the Holy Ghost, and are partakers of the Holy Spirit,

6:5 And they that have tasted the good word of God, and the power of the world to come,

6:6 And if they fall away after that, it is impossible for them to return to repentance, since they will again crucify the Son of God and expose Him to the world.

Christianity is a religion of knowing and living in Jesus Christ. It is a way of life with God that is connected to a vibrant relationship that develops from a personal relationship with the living God.

3:18 Children. Let us love one another not with words or with our lips, but with deeds and with truth.

3:19 So that we may know that we are of the truth, and that we are not of the world, but of God. 3:19 And let us keep our hearts at rest in the presence of God.

The Lord Jesus did not love with words or with His mouth alone, but with deeds and with the truth.

John 15:5 I am the vine, and you are the branches. If a man is connected to Me, and I to him, he will bear fruit in abundance. For apart from Me you can do nothing.

15:6 If a man is not connected to Me, he will be cast out like a branch and wither. The people will gather them up, throw them into the fire, and burn them.

15:7 If you are connected to me, and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 15:7 Ask whatever you wish, and it will be given to you, and you will have it.

15:8 If you bear fruit abundantly and become my disciples, then my Father will be glorified.

15:9 For I have loved you, just as the Father has loved me. Be in my love.

15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall be in my love. 15:10 If ye keep my covenant, ye shall be in my love: just as I have kept my Father's covenant, and ye shall be in his love.

15:11 I have spoken these things, that my joy may dwell in you, and that your joy may abound.

15:12 For this is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. 15:12 My commandment is this, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you: that ye love one another, and that ye love one another.

15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

15:14 If you do what I command you, you are my friends; and if you do what I command you, you are my friends.

15:15 I will no longer call you servants, for I do not know what my master does. 15:15 I will no longer call you servants, for I know not what my master does. I have called you friends, because you do not know what your masters do. 15:15 For I have made known to you all that I have heard from my Father.

15:16 Ye have not chosen me: I have chosen you. 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I have set you up. 15:17 And I have chosen you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain forever; and that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 8:31 Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him, "If you remain in my word, you are

truly my disciples.

8:32 And ye shall know the truth. 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

3:16 For he hath laid down his life for us, that we might know the knowledge of love. For by this we have known the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus. Therefore we also ought to lay down our lives for our brethren.

3:14 For we know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brother. He who does not love remains in death.

3:11 We ought to love one another. 3:11 We ought to love one another, for this is the sign which ye have heard from the beginning.

3:18 Children! Let us not love one another only with words or with our lips, but let us love one another in deed and in truth.

3:19 That we may know that we are of the truth. 3:19 Let us not love one another in word or in deed, but in truth, so that we may know that we are of the truth, and that we have peace of mind before God.

If we abide in His words, if we love what He says and keep it and practice it, then we are in the truth, we are in the life of God, and the truth will set us free.

Let us rest our hearts in the presence of God."

There is still a struggle in our hearts. There is a constant struggle in our hearts to know if we are living righteously.

3:20 For though there be reproach in our hearts, yet God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things.

There are things in our hearts that are accusing. We have the glorious example of Jesus, but there is a great gap between that example, the ideal, and our reality, and we often feel and suffer condemnation in our hearts. Even though we have been made aware of Jesus' love for us, we still "love only with words and lips" and have difficulty "loving one another in deed and in truth. Therefore, we are always tormented in our hearts, even though we are saved, by the remorse that we are far from Jesus.

But Jesus said, "Let us not love one another only with words or with our lips, but with deeds and with truth. Let us love one another in deed and in truth, so that we may know that we are of the truth. And let our hearts rest in the presence of God. ...But now that our love is fragile and weak, and we are far from the glorious example of Jesus, the torment of the heart strikes us, wondering if we are really in the truth.

3:20 For if there be any reproach in our hearts, God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things.

But in love there is no fear. (1 John 4:18)

(1 John 4:18) For God is greater than our hearts, and knows all things, even though our hearts may condemn us.

God sees our shameful thoughts and feelings as we look up to Jesus in the distance and pray for Him to come closer to us, but He also sees our cries and prayers as we are tossed about by the waves in our weakness, moving closer and farther away. And God knows everything and watches us with a great heart. He tells us that for all your sins I have crucified my Son and made him an atonement for all your sins.

3:21 Beloved, if there is anything in your hearts that condemns you, do not be afraid of it. If there is no condemnation in our hearts, we can have confidence in God.

3:22 And whatever we ask, we shall receive. 3:22 And whatever we ask, we shall receive, because we have kept God's commandments and have done what is pleasing to Him.

If God would speak to us in such a way, we would be free from all the condemnation of our hearts. And if in that way God does indeed remove the condemning torment of the heart with His great heart, if in that way there is no condemnation in the heart, then we can be boldly confident before God, against God. We can have bold confidence in God with openness, frankness, cheerfulness, lightness, openness, and boldness.

Our problem is that we fail to believe that God knows us so thoroughly and still forgives us. We always look down on ourselves as if we are faithless, unable to run to God, and remain in the torment of our own hearts. This is our problem.

When we love Jesus through and through, when we believe in His salvation, when we are shown it, when we honor it, when we long for it, when we obey it, when we put His teachings

into practice, we are being made new. We know that God is with us, and we hear His voice telling us to ask whatever we desire and we will receive it. We believe, respond, and offer up prayers that are in accord with God's will, and when they are answered, God's work is manifested and His name is glorified. Our prayer requests are thus an important and indispensable means of drawing out the Lord's work.

II Chronicles 16:9 With his eyes the Lord looks into every corner of the earth and reveals his power to those whose hearts are completely one with his.

4:23 But the time is coming when those who worship in truth will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Yes, it is coming now. For the Father seeks those who worship in this way.

4:24 For God is a spirit, and they that worship should worship in spirit and in truth.

Let us pray, believing that God will grant us all that we ask.

John 14:12 I say unto you well and truly, He that believeth in me, and I in him, the same is he that believeth not in me. He who believes in me will do the works that I am doing. Not only that, but he will do greater deeds. For I am going to the Father.

14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it you. 14:13 For the Father will be glorified through the Son.

14:14 For whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, I will give it you.

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

14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will send me another helper. 14:16 I will ask the Father, and he will send another Helper to be with you for ever.

14:17 It is the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive it, because it neither sees it nor knows it. You know it, because it is with you and will be with you. For it is with you and in you.

14:18 I will not leave you as orphans. I will come back to you.

Mark 11:22 Jesus answered and said unto him, Believe in God, and ye shall have faith.

11:23 Listen carefully. If anyone says to this mountain, "Let us go out and enter the sea," and believes without doubting in his heart that what he says will come to pass, it will be done.

11:24 Then I say to you, whatever you pray for, believe that it has been granted, and it will be done. Then it will be done.

1 John 5:14 Our confidence in God is this: that whatever we ask of him, he will give it us. 1 John 5:14 For we have this confidence in God, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

3:23 The commandment is, that we should believe in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and that we should love one another, as he commanded us.

3:24 For he that keepeth the commandments of God is in God, and God also in him. And that God is in us, we know by the Spirit which he has given us.

Romans 13:8 And we owe nothing to anyone except what we love one another. He who loves others will fulfill the law.

Keeping God's word is the way, the truth, and the life for us is to obey Jesus' words. He is with God and God is in him. And we know this through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

3:13 And he will not do as Moses did, who covered his face, lest the children of Israel should see the end of that which is vanishing.

3:14 Indeed, their thoughts were dulled. To this day, when they recite the old covenant, that same covering remains unremoved. It is only in Christ that it is removed.

3:15 Even to this day, whenever the book of Moses is recited, the covering remains on their hearts.

3:16 But when they turn to the Lord, the covering is removed.

3:17 For the LORD is a spirit. And where His Spirit is, there is freedom.

3:18 And we shall all be transformed into His likeness from glory to glory, beholding His glory as in a mirror, without covering our faces. This is the work of the Lord, the Spirit.

Our faces are not covered with a covering. The Lord has broken down the walls of separation. And we see Jesus and are brought closer to Him. This is the work of the Lord in spirit. More and more we are strengthened by His forgiveness and desire to continue on this path of life without condemnation in our hearts, "believing in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God," and "loving one another as He commanded us."

Ephesians 2:13 But thus, though formerly you were far off, yet now you are in Christ Jesus, being made near by the blood of Christ.

2:14 For Christ is our peace, who has made two things one, and has removed the middle wall of separation, which is enmity, by his own flesh,

2:15 He has laid aside the law of commandments, which consisted of numerous regulations.

2:15 For he hath made peace in him, having made peace between the two in one new man,

2:16 For by the cross he has reconciled the two in one body to God, and has destroyed enmity by crucifixion.

Ephesians 4:13 That we all might come to the unity of the faith in the Son of God, and of the knowledge of him, and to the perfect man, even to the fullness of the virtue of Christ.

4:14 And thus we are no longer children, and we are not tossed about and toyed with by the winds of various doctrines, which arise from the wiles of men, by deceitful schemes, but by the Spirit of truth in love,

4:15 Speaking the truth in love, growing in all things, we attain Christ the head.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for today's worship. Thank you for showing us the love of Jesus, forgiving us, encouraging us, strengthening us, making us grow, bringing us into your love even when our hearts are condemned because of our own weakness, removing the condemnation from our hearts, reassuring our hearts, giving us confidence before God, and fulfilling whatever we ask. Thank you so much. Please lead all sufferers into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people in our community. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.