



THE
LOVES
OF THE
Man of God

MAN OF THE WORD MANUAL • SPRING 2022

THE LOVES OF THE MAN OF GOD

MCBC Man of the Word
Fall 2022

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THE LOVES OF THE MAN OF GOD: WHAT DO I LOVE?

THEME

Our theme for the Man of the Word this spring is The Loves of the Man of God. This booklet is a nine-week study designed to challenge us as men to Love as God would have us love and to forsake those loves that are hearts are inclined to love, but do not align with God's instructions.

THEME PASSAGE

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” (1 John 4:10-11)

MANUAL

Each week's resources consist of:

- SCRIPTURE MEDITATION – A passage pertaining to the week's article to be read and considered during the week
- BOOK READING –
- M'CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE – A way to keep on track in reading through the Bible in 2022 using the M'Cheyne system
- PERSONAL REFLECTIONS – A week-by-week place to record what God is teaching you
- ARTICLES – Testimonies and devotionals related to the theme, written by Mount Calvary Baptist Church men

Don't let these materials become daunting. Let whatever you do be a delight. If you can't keep up every component, choose the ones that you can use consistently and stick with them.

TIME

10 weeks: September 4 – November 12, 2022

GOALS

1. To learn, despite our failures in the flesh, to use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, to engage in this warfare actively and offensively.
2. To draw benefit from wisely written materials.
3. To edify fellow Mount Calvary men through prayer and accountability.

EVENTS

Men's Prayer Breakfasts: September 3, October 8, November 12

Men and Boys Outing : September 16-17 Overnight Campout at Phil Sterr's property. (Feel free to come for all or portions of the event.)

MY PRAYER PARTNER (NAME, PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL):

MAN OF THE WORD PROGRAM

The leadership of Mount Calvary Baptist Church created the Man of the Word program in obedience to the command of 2 Timothy 2:2: “The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.” This ministry functions under the leadership of Pastor Mark Minnick and Pastor Jerid Jones. The following men are the current Man of the Word officers.

- President Roger Bradley
- Vice President Phil Sterr
- Treasurer Ken Still
- Manual Director Jacob Nicholson
- Food Director Jared Rush
- Project Coordinator Randy Smith

We are grateful to Pastor Mark Minnick and Pastor Jerid Jones for their encouragement and leadership and for their vision for the men of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. We would also like to express our gratitude to the men who have donated their time, energy, and gifts by writing spiritually edifying articles for our growth and encouragement.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.”

Job 23:12

BOOK READING

M'CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sept. 4	1 Sam 28	1Cor. 9	Eze. 7	Ps. 45
Sept. 5	1 Sam 29,30	1Cor. 10	Eze. 8	Ps. 46,47
Sept. 6	1 Sam. 31	1Cor. 11	Eze. 9	Ps. 48
Sept. 7	2 Sam. 1	1Cor. 12	Eze. 10	Ps. 49
Sept. 8	2 Sam. 2	1Cor. 13	Eze. 11	Ps. 50
Sept. 9	2 Sam. 3	1Cor. 14	Eze. 12	Ps. 51
Sept. 10	2 Sam. 4.5	1Cor. 15	Eze. 13	Ps. 52-54

PERSONAL REFLECTION

INTRODUCTION

ROGER BRADLEY

How might we properly complete the following unfinished syllogism?

- A) *God is love.*
- B) *Man was created in the image of God.*
- C) *Man therefore . . .*

Here are two possibilities:

- 1) *Man therefore is love.*

Observation of the world and of myself suggests that this is only remotely possible if it refers to the love that I have for *myself*. My fallen nature causes my love to be always and everywhere directed in the first instance toward me and my own interests. Humanly speaking, I am neither capable nor really interested in loving the world the way God loves the world, though it should be my duty as a Christian to seek to cultivate such a love.

- 2) *Man therefore is created with the natural capacity and tendency to love.*

This seems more accurate, since I am not infinite as God is infinite. As a man created in God's image, I do love, and I will love. But, just as God declares and demonstrates His love for the world and for me individually, so I also have the ability to exhibit in deed as well as in word that I love someone or something.

In the Scriptures, love appears to be assumed— that we will love something and/or someone, especially ourselves— and that we have to be commanded not to love in general, but rather to make sure that we love the right things. God directs believers to “love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5). You are commanded to “love one another” (John 15:12) and to “love

your neighbor” (Leviticus 19:18). Our attention is not required to make sure that we love, but rather that we *love the right things*.

In His infiniteness, God can love everyone equally well. We cannot. When we love one thing more than before, it necessarily means that we must love something else less. Economists say that human love is a scarce good— to get more love for one person or thing, we must give up love for someone or something else. It is in this sense that we are commanded positively to love, such as “Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them” (Colossians 3:9). It is also in this sense that we are commanded to love certain things less, such as, “do not love sleep, or you will become poor” (Proverbs 20:13). This trade-off of loves is no clearer than in 1 John 2:15, which says that if we love the world or the things in the world, then the love of the Father is not in us. In order to love my wife and my neighbor and God more, I will have to love myself and the things of this world to which I am drawn less.

This requires me to ask the important question: *what do I love?* Are my loves consistent with the commands of God in the Bible? Do I love what He loves and hate what He hates? Do I love the world or the things that are in the world? Do my loves “crowd out” my love for God, or my love for His people, or my love for my neighbor, or my love for anything else He has commanded me to love? How do I know? Many years ago, when I was a teen, I was given a simple reminder of how I should answer this question, and it has remained with me since. A friend put into my hand a torn-out page from the devotional book, *Our Daily Bread*. At the bottom of the page, after the devotional reading was a related thought for the day. It read, “The measure of our sacrifice in the measure of our love.” I can say that I love God and my brother and my wife, and my neighbor, but the bottom line is that I willingly sacrifice for the sake of the things I really love and refuse to sacrifice for the things I don’t really love. I know I love my wife if I sacrifice my love for myself for her sake. I know I love my neighbor if I sacrifice my time, money, and energy for his or her sake. I know I love God if I gladly sacrifice what I might want to do for His sake and the gospel’s sake.

In this light, an honest inventory of the use of our time and resources is undoubtedly a very sobering experience for most believers. Clearly, we all fall short of this very high standard. In his discussion of how to go to God for a sense of His love, Maurice Roberts wrote,

“It is the way of many to begin in prayer with strong affirmations of their love to God. But let us be careful. It is our personal belief that we would start off more promisingly if we began the other way round, that is, by admitting how very little we love God . . . [W]e do well to start our prayer for the felt presence of His love by telling the Lord, not how much we love Him, but how piteously little” (*The Thought of God*, Banner of Truth Trust [1993], p. 61-2).

While this description undoubtedly rings true for all Christians, we must never allow the acknowledgement of such a shortfall to cause discouragement. It is rather a fresh opportunity to demonstrate our love for God as we ought.

In this edition of the Man of the Word manual, the articles are intended for some of our men to testify to some aspect of this challenge to love God wholeheartedly. Some may testify of some failure God has graciously allowed them to recognize and seek to remedy. Some may tell of lessons they may have learned through Scripture reading, a Sunday School lesson, or a sermon. Others may give a word borne from some other human experience. We all need to love God more and better. May this MOW cycle be an encouragement for all of us to increase our love for God.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“May Your lovingkindnesses also come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to your word; so I will have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.”

Psalm 119:41-42

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sept. 11	2 Sam. 6	1Cor. 16	Eze. 14	Ps. 55
Sept. 12	2 Sam. 7	2 Cor. 1	Eze. 15	Ps. 56,57
Sept. 13	2 Sam. 8,9	2 Cor. 2	Eze. 16	Ps. 58,59
Sept. 14	2 Sam. 10	2 Cor. 3	Eze. 17	Ps. 60,61
Sept. 15	2 Sam. 11	2 Cor. 4	Eze. 18	Ps. 62,63
Sept. 16	2 Sam. 12	2 Cor. 5	Eze. 19	Ps. 64,65
Sept. 17	2 Sam. 13	2 Cor. 6	Eze. 20	Ps. 66,67

PERSONAL REFLECTION

“LOVE YOURSELF FIRST”

PHIL STERR

That's what the big billboard about a mile from church proclaims. You look at the girl pictured and wonder what is the motivation behind this loud statement. Why does this girl, or any person, supposedly have a problem with loving themselves? The Apostle Paul, other scripture, and history, seem to say; of all the problems man might have, loving himself first is not one of the foremost ones.

"For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it..." Eph. 5:29

Spiritually speaking, and possibly naturally also, seeking to love ourselves first is possibly the apex of most all our problems. We brothers all know what the greatest command of God is. And the second pertains to the same issue. Yes the issue is love, but not for ourselves. Why do we struggle with an issue that we know all to well?

1- Because we live in a culture (now with billboards) telling us to do the opposite of what God tells us. Increasingly the thought is to focus on and refine your inner desires and pursue them with a god-like zeal.

2- Because we always have this natural man flesh about us. "We have met the enemy and it is us." As one theologian put it: "The man in Christ is not in the flesh, but the flesh is in him. And the problem with salvation is not how to transmute this flesh into something good, but how to live with this devilish thing every day and not be overcome by it."

3- We have trouble with our love life because we ignorantly wrestle, and struggle, and fight against rulers, powers, world forces of darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness, in heavenly places. I say ignorantly because I really wonder if we understand half the battle that is going on in the unseen realm. Do we realize that much of the struggle in our thought life is of demonic origin?

The world, the flesh, and the devil are all competing against a pure heart of love. What are we to do?

Jesus said: "where your treasure is there will your heart be also." Lets call the Biblical "heart" the real center of our being. According to Genesis 6, the heart is the intellect, emotion and will. If you can identify my main pursuit in life, you can identify the real me. My heart of hearts will go out to the thing that I love. That thing will dominate my actions. God is a jealous God who does not allow rivals. We cannot serve God and riches. We cannot give our hearts even to family members above what we give to God. In Luke 14:26 the Bible directs our love to a limited realm - God, others, and truth. Do we keep it focused there only? Love, focused in the right direction, is what life is all about. Augustine is quoted as saying: "love God and do as you please." In other words if our love for God is right, everything else will be right. Our love cannot go in the wrong direction, like the billboard, and we cannot let it be diluted by having to many heart attractions. We must keep our hearts with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Prov. 4:23

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth
that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.
2 Chron. 16:9

Is our love lacking? We need to point our hearts in the right direction and God will meet us.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 6:1

BOOK READING

M'CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sept. 18	2 Sam. 14	2 Cor. 7	Eze. 21	Ps. 68
Sept. 19	2 Sam. 15	2 Cor. 8	Eze. 22	Ps. 69
Sept. 20	2 Sam. 16	2 Cor. 9	Eze. 23	Ps. 70,71
Sept. 21	2 Sam. 17	2 Cor. 10	Eze. 24	Ps. 72
Sept. 22	2 Sam. 18	2 Cor. 11	Eze. 25	Ps. 73
Sept. 23	2 Sam. 19	2 Cor. 12	Eze. 26	Ps. 74
Sept. 24	2 Sam. 20	2 Cor. 13	Eze. 27	Ps. 75,76

PERSONAL REFLECTION

IF YOU LOVE ME YOU WILL KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS

JAKE NICHOLSON

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus instructs us on the commands of the Lord. In the first three sections of Matthew Chapter 6 the Lord is dealing with three fundamental acts of Piety in Judaism: giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting. Jesus recognizes how easy it is for sinners to engage in good, important, even religious activities, and to do them not to be doing right but in order to be recognized and admired for doing right. As if being known as a generous person, is more important than being generous, or having a reputation of prayerfulness, is more important than praying when only God is listening. If this is our motive to be known for these actions, our acts of piety become acts of impiety.

What then is the answer to such a problem? Jesus tells us that we can check ourselves by attempting to do these things so quietly that no one but God knows that we are doing them. Matt, 6:3 we are told to give in secret, 6:5-6 He tells us to be sure to pray in secret, and we then will be rewarded for it! And 6:18 even tells us to disguise our fasting so no one knows about it, and your Father will reward you.

What is this reward? Treasure? Jesus tells us to store up treasure, treasure that is in heaven. Our hearts will inevitably pursue treasure. What we ultimately value will tug at our “hearts”—our personalities, our dreams, our time, our imaginations, our inmost beings—and we will pursue it. That thing becomes our god. If what we value is merely material, our god is materialism. But if all we cherish most belongs to the eternal realm, then our whole being will pursue what is of transcendent significance.

Does any of this have to do with the loves of a man of God? The actions that we make are a reflection of our heart, and if we are selfish in the things we seek, even if they be religious or good things, if we do them to make our name great, our love is toward ourselves, but if we do good and religious things to make the name of our Lord great, to make His name “famous” then our love is where it ought to be.

Jesus summarizes this section of the Sermon on the Mount with the encouragement that will help us in having the right motives in 6:33 seek first the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree [firmly] planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.”

Psalm 1:1-3

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Sept. 25	2 Sam. 21	Gal. 1	Eze. 28	Ps. 77
Sept. 26	2 Sam. 22	Gal. 2	Eze. 29	Ps. 78:1-37
Sept. 27	2 Sam. 23	Gal. 3	Eze. 30	Ps. 78:38-72
Sept. 28	2 Sam. 24	Gal. 4	Eze. 31	Ps. 79
Sept. 29	1Kings 1	Gal. 5	Eze. 32	Ps. 80
Sept. 30	1Kings 2	Gal. 6	Eze. 33	Ps. 81,82
Oct. 1	1 Kings 3	Eph. 1	Eze. 34	Ps. 83,84

PERSONAL REFLECTION

LOVING GOD WITH MY MIND BY LISTENING WELL TO HIS WORDS

RANDY SMITH

How far short I fall in loving God the way that I ought. When asked “what commandment is the foremost of all,” Jesus answered, “...you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” (Mark 12:28-30). I am to love God with the entirety of my being, but for a few minutes I would like us to focus on just the aspect of loving God with our minds. Specifically, I should love Him with my mind by listening well to His words. For our purposes, “listening to His words” can refer to both listening to His Word (various ways) and reading it. How can I love God with my mind by listening well to His words?

For starters, and this is obvious, I must be listening to *His* Word. There are so many other words that I can be listening to. There are so many other voices competing for my attention. Who has your attention? Whose words are sinking into your ears? In an age where there are countless captivating voices and words beyond measure, we must be listening preeminently to God’s words. Take time, make time to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to His words (see Luke 10:39).

Once I am truly listening to God’s words (vs. others’ words), *how* am I listening? I should delight to hear His voice. I should be willing to spend much time listening to Him. In human relationships, we delight to hear from one we love; we spend much time conversing with such a one. Should it be otherwise with God? As I listen, God should have my undivided attention. During a time that is designated for listening to God, I dishonor Him by allowing my attention to be divided. Are God’s words not important enough? Are someone else’s words more important? I’m afraid that other people might find my behavior offensive if I listen to them the same way I sometimes listen to God. Listening poorly can weaken and damage my relationship with another person. Will doing so to God have any other effect?

What will help me to listen well to God’s words? I must value them properly, esteem them highly, give them the weight that they deserve.

About God's judgments David said, "They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold" (Ps. 19:10). The psalmist said, "Therefore I esteem right all Your precepts concerning everything" (Ps. 119:128). And Job said, "I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12). If I have the right mindset about God's words, I will more readily listen in the right way.

Is there a practical way that I can test myself; measure how well I am listening to God's words and, in so doing, loving God with my mind? An idea that comes quickly to mind is influence or change. In our world, the more we listen to someone, the more we can become like them. If there is someone to whom we regularly give a favorable ear, it is likely that we will change to be more like that person. We tend to start thinking, talking, and even acting like those we are listening to. How are God's words influencing me, changing me? James teaches us that the man who looks into the Word of God, and becomes an effectual doer of it, will demonstrate true religion (James 1) and Paul teaches that for those who behold God's glory, transformation into His image will take place (2 Cor. 3:18). Is demonstrable change taking place in our lives...where we are changing into God's image because of the way we are listening to His words? If so, that is good and evidences our loving God with our minds. If not, may we start doing so!

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us.”

1 John 4:17-19

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Oct. 2	1 Kings 4,5	Eph. 2	Eze. 35	Ps. 85
Oct. 3	1 Kings 6	Eph. 3	Eze. 36	Ps. 86
Oct. 4	1 Kings 7	Eph. 4	Eze. 37	Ps. 87,88
Oct. 5	1 Kings 8	Eph. 5	Eze. 38	Ps. 89
Oct. 6	1 Kings 9	Eph. 6	Eze. 39	Ps. 90
Oct. 7	1 Kings 10	Phil. 1	Eze. 40	Ps. 91
Oct. 8	1 Kings 11	Phil. 2	Eze. 41	Ps. 92,93

PERSONAL REFLECTION

GOD'S LOVE OUR EXAMPLE

JAKE NICHOLSON

One area in which I struggle is in the area of Loving other people. I can love my family, and my friends easy enough, but to love the people in other cars on the road, or to love the person in the store, or even to love a man on the other team, that is when I come into some difficulty.

Often people don't deserve to be loved from my perspective, they do things that hinder me from being able to do what I want. They get in my way or they bother me. Even sometimes within my own household I can get this feeling that someone in my house is doing things for the purpose of bothering or going against me.

I have found that when I allow my mind to fall into paths that lead me to being so disrupted by other people, I have also neglected to keep myself positioned under My Lord. When your perspective is accurate your responses can be more naturally aligned with the way the Lord would have you respond.

What is an accurate perspective? Well first off I am a sinner and God Loved me! 1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us. He loved us when we didn't deserve it. It really elevates my thinking of the Lord when I think of how He can love me. I know my faults (if I'm honest) and yet he Loves me.

How can we take this example and use it in our lives? One passage that continues to come to my mind on the theme of this cycle is John 3:16 for God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. This passage is a great promise to us but it is also a great encouragement to us to love the world in the way that the Lord does. That means that I can give of myself to reach the world. Evangelism, am I willing to love my neighbor in this way? So often I fall back in this feeling that people are in my way and there to bother me, but if I love like God loves I will tell others about His love.

This week I encourage you to take time to actively pursue the lost, tell them of God and His great love. It may be uncomfortable or seem forced but if you are going to Love the way God Loves you must obey his

commands. Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you: and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

You might have a ministry with the church that you are actively evangelizing or discipling, or you have opportunities throughout your day to meet with unsaved people, but we all must be obeying even this command and when we love God he helps us love others in this way too.

1 John 4:20-21 If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“So then, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, For it is God who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose.”

Philippians 2:12-13

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Oct. 9	1 Kings 12	Phil. 3	Eze. 42	Ps. 94
Oct. 10	1 Kings 13	Phil. 4	Eze. 43	Ps. 95,96
Oct. 11	1 Kings 14	Col. 1	Eze. 44	Ps. 97,98
Oct. 12	1 Kings 15	Col. 2	Eze. 45	Ps. 99-101
Oct. 13	1 Kings 16	Col. 3	Eze. 46	Ps. 102
Oct. 14	1 Kings 17	Col. 4	Eze. 47	Ps. 103
Oct. 15	1 Kings 18	1 Thes. 1	Eze. 49	Ps. 104

PERSONAL REFLECTION

DO I REALLY LOVE GOD?

KEVIN CALVINO

In the past months I have been questioning myself "Do I really love God, how much?" Jesus provided instruction regarding a way to assess the answer to that question when He said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." And Ps 40:8 states, "I delight to do Your will, my God; Your Law is within my heart."

To be able to love God more I realized I needed to delight to do His will. He has been working that delight into my heart over these months using His word. It takes time to develop any relationship. I realized I must be intentionally be meditating on God's words and that takes time. Precious time. Time that could be using for many other activities. But prioritizing time to develop an eternal relationship with an eternal God will produce eternal blessings.

During my devotion time in the morning, when a passage really impacts me, I write it on a 3X5 card with some thoughts and then specifically read/meditate/memorize them immediately prior to going to sleep. I also spend time praying the thoughts and passages back to the Lord.

Following are some of the passages and thoughts God has been using to help me delight in what He delights in and begin to obey Him wholeheartedly as I meditate on them and pray them back to the Lord.

Ps 107:9

For he satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.

"The Lord sets us longing for Himself and then completely satisfies us with Himself. That longing leads us into solitude, separation, thirst, faintness and self-despair, and all these conduct us to prayer, faith, divine guidance, and finally to satisfying of the soul's thirst and rest (in Christ). The good hand of the Lord is to be seen in the whole process and in the divine result." Spurgeon

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich

man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD."

Regarding this passage, the thought came to me, "I wonder what God delights in?" Following are some treasure passages I found that reflect what God delights in.

- He rejoices in His works –
Ps 104:31
May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works
- He takes pleasure in those that fear Him and hope in His steadfast love -
Ps 147-10-11
His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,
but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.
- He takes pleasure in honesty
Proverbs 11:1
The Lord hates it when people use scales to cheat others.
But he is delighted when people use honest weights.
- The Father delights in the Son
Is 42:1
Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

Philippians 2:12-13

So then, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, For it is God

who works in you to will and to act on behalf of His good purpose.

This verse was a great encouragement to me because it tells me clearly that although I have a responsibility to obey God I know He is constantly working in me to help me to obey Him and love Him.

The only encouragement to work, in a being weak and finite like man, is the conviction that the Almighty power is working in him, both as to will and deed. (Ellicott)

While we cannot even conceive the existence of freedom under an unbending impersonal law or force, the harmony of our will with a Supreme Personal Will is mysterious, indeed, but not inconceivable. (Ellicott)

That the work of our salvation is such that we need help, and such help as God only can impart. We need it to enable us to overcome our sins; to give us such a view of them as to produce true penitence; to break away from our evil companions; to give up our plans of evil, and to resolve to lead different lives. We need help that our minds may be enlightened; that we may be led in the way of truth; that we may be saved from the danger of error, and that we may not be suffered to fall back into the ways of transgression. Such help we should welcome from any quarter; and any assistance furnished on these points will not interfere with our freedom. (Barnes)

Galatians 5:1

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

This verse and MacLaren's statement below really focused my thoughts on the pure release from slavery that Jesus provided at the cross and that the Holy Spirit continues to provide as He sanctifies us. This frees me to love Him, obey Him, and delight in what He delights in. When I **willingly** keep within God's limits, I am showing my love for Him.

Freedom consists in keeping **willingly** within the limits which God has traced, and anything else is not freedom but license and rebellion, and at bottom servitude of the most abject type. (MacLaren)

As stated in the introduction to the manual, “We all need to love God more and better. There is no better way to grow to love God more and love Him better than to delight in what He delights in and obey Him wholeheartedly. Focused time memorizing, meditating, and crying out to God in prayer will lead to a life of loving the Lord “more and better” and obeying Him wholeheartedly.

- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Hebrews 4:12
- I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

John 15:7

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Oct. 16	1 Kings 19	1 Thes. 2	Dan. 1	Ps. 105
Oct. 17	1 Kings 20	1 Thes. 3	Dan. 2	Ps. 106
Oct. 18	1 Kings 21	1 Thes. 4	Dan. 3	Ps. 107
Oct. 19	1 Kings 22	1 Thes. 5	Dan. 4	Ps. 108,109
Oct. 20	2 Kings 1	2 Thes. 1	Dan. 5	Ps. 110,111
Oct. 21	2 Kings 2	2 Thes. 2	Dan. 6	Ps. 112,113
Oct. 22	2 Kings 3	2 Thes. 3	Dan. 7	Ps. 114,115

PERSONAL REFLECTION

LOVES OF A MAN OF GOD

This week I encourage you to come up with your own list of things that you can see in scripture that will help you to grow in the way you Love.

Love God-

Love Family-

Love the World- (and love not the world at the same time)

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God, furthermore, said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is My name forever, and this is My memorial-name to all generations.”

Exodus 3:14-15

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Oct. 23	2 Kings 4	1 Tim. 1	Dan. 8	Ps. 116
Oct. 24	2 Kings 5	1Tim. 2	Dan. 9	Ps.117,118
Oct. 25	2 Kings 6	1Tim. 3	Dan. 10	Ps.119:1-24
Oct. 26	2 Kings 7	1Tim. 4	Dan. 11	Ps. --25-48
Oct. 27	2 Kings 8	1Tim. 5	Dan. 12	Ps. --49-72
Oct. 28	2 Kings 9	1Tim. 6	Hos. 1	Ps. --73-96
Oct. 29	2 Kings 10	2 Tim. 1	Hos. 2	Ps. --97-120

PERSONAL REFLECTION

GOD'S LOVE FOR ISRAEL

JAKE NICHOLSON

Over the years I've studied through the Exodus account and the children of Israel and as you read through that passage you are struck with God's Greatness, he is introducing to Israel and to us who He is and He does so with mighty acts. You can think of the way He calls Moses or the way delivers the people from Slavery, with these ten plagues. We thought it was outstanding to have a pandemic, one disease that crippled the world, but God sent 10 plagues on Egypt, with a display of power that left no doubt as to His power and ability, and we often think if we would have witnessed these things we would be forever bolstered to believe in the Lord and to never forget His leadership.

The children of Israel are released just as God says and they walk into the wilderness and God leads them into what looks like a trap and they begin to forget, and they say it would have been better not to have been saved. Then God delivers them across the Red Sea and they praise him, Then Exodus 15 the people grumble against the Lord (within days of their praising Him) because they didn't have suitable water. God changes the water and they are able to drink it and the Israelites are once again rescued by the Lord's almighty hand. The very next chapter they are grumbling/murmuring about their food situation. And what does God do? He provides food for them, and in doing so He gives them instructions as to collecting the food and even in the collecting of the food He wants them to know that he is providing for them and He is doing it in His special way (with the special collection before the sabbath). Then once again the people are in need of water ch 17 and he once again provides it. The next phase of things God's hand will do for Israel is to give them victory in battle.

All these things God is doing for Israel and yet Israel forgets or loses sight of who God is, this is a perfect picture of our own experience, we so often forget God's love for us, that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. If we only stop and look at what God is doing we will see Him. But if we lose sight of Him, if we lose our focus, we will be like Israel and forget to look to God in our time of need.

The most encouraging thing to me about the narrative passages in Exodus with the Children of Israel is that God is faithful to these people just as He promises. I can get discouraged when I look at the failures in my life, when I repeat the sins that I have repented of and forget to put God first. When I am tempted to think that I am no good to God and useless I am reminded of His character and how he dealt with the children of Israel this way as an example to me so that I can know who He is and believe His promises.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”

Colossians 3:16-17

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Oct. 30	2 Kings 11,12	2 Tim. 2	Hos. 3,4	Ps. --121-144
Oct. 31	2 Kings 13	2 Tim. 3	Hos. 5,6	Ps. 119:145-176
Nov. 1	2 Kings 14	2 Tim. 4	Hos. 7	Ps. 120-122
Nov. 2	2 Kings 15	Tit. 1	Hos. 8	Ps. 123-125
Nov. 3	2 Kings 16	Tit. 2	Hos. 9	Ps. 126-128
Nov. 4	2 Kings 17	Tit. 3	Hos. 10	Ps. 129-131
Nov. 5	2 Kings 18	Phm. 1	Hos. 11	Ps. 132-134

PERSONAL REFLECTION

WHAT IS LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-8

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have [the gift of] prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed [the poor,] and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind [and] is not jealous; love does not brag [and] is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong [suffered,] 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; but if [there are gifts of] prophecy, they will be done away; if [there are] tongues, they will cease; if [there is] knowledge, it will be done away.

Romans 13:8-10

Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled [the] law. 9 For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of [the] law.

1 John 4:10-21

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son [to be] the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may

have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us. 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

“Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

BOOK READING

M’CHEYNE BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

Nov. 6	2 Kings 19	Heb. 1	Hos. 12	Ps. 135,136
Nov. 7	2 Kings 20	Heb. 2	Hos. 13	Ps. 137-138
Nov. 8	2 Kings 21	Heb. 3	Hos. 14	Ps. 139
Nov. 9	2 Kings 22	Heb. 4	Joel 1	Ps. 140,141
Nov. 10	2 Kings 23	Heb. 5	Joel 2	Ps. 142
Nov. 11	2 Kings 24	Heb. 6	Joel 3	Ps. 143
Nov. 12	2 Kings 25	Heb. 7	Amos 1	Ps. 144

PERSONAL REFLECTION

1 JOHN 4: 10-11 NASB

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.