

“THEOPHILUS”

“Lover of God”

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INTRODUCTION

TEXT: “...to write unto thee in order most excellent Theophilus” (v. 3).

A. SETTING: QUICK OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER ONE.

1. An account of the things that had happened - the ministry of Christ” by an eyewitness. (2)
2. The birth of Jesus foretold.
3. The birth of John.

B. ADDRESSED TO “THEOPHILUS” (Also the Book of Acts).

1. “Theophilus” means: “dear to God” - “Friend of God” - “Lover of God”.
2. From two Greek words.

C. WHO WAS “THEOPHILUS”?

1. Was he some particular individual?
 - a. Some say that the term “most Excellent” indicates that it was an individual, perhaps of royalty.
 - b. It could have been the personal name of an individual.
2. Was it the designation of a class of people.
 - a. That is, “people who love God.”
 - b. Because they love God, they would want to hear and know this story.

D. This Really Doesn’t Make Us Any Difference Today.

1. We want to deal with the thought of one who loves God.
 2. What does it mean...To Love God?
 3. Who are the “Theophilus” of today?
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IN OLD TESTAMENT

A. A Misconception Among Many Today Is How The Proper Relationship Between Man And God Was Maintained In The Old Testament.

1. Some think that it was just a system of “thou shall” or “Thou shall not”.
2. Just go through all the right motions.
3. This idea is to been seen in the religious practice of the Jews in Jesus’ day.
 - a. Seen in the Pharisees.
 - b. Note the “woes” of Matthew 23.

4. IN REALITY...

B. “Hear O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah: and thou shall love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deut. 6:5).

1. “...showing loving kindness unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.” (Deut. 5:10).
 2. True worship (acceptable) of God has always been based on LOVE.
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GREATEST COMMANDMENT

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- A. During Jesus' public ministry this question was asked:
1. *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”* (Matt. 22:36).
 2. The motive for the question was wrong; but we want to consider the answer.
- B. *“And he said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all mind. This is the great and first commandment.”* (Matt. 26:37).
1. Why is this the “great commandment”?
 2. Because any thing we do in our service to God begins with Love.
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WHY SHOULD WE LOVE

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- A. WHO LOVED FIRST....MAN OR GOD?
1. *“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”.... “we love because he first loves us.”* (I John 4:10; 19).
 2. John 3:16.
- B. THE NATURAL RESPONSE OF LOVE....Is To Return It.
1. True in human relationships.
 2. True in our relationship with God.
- C. This Is One Of The Great Differences Between God And Idols.
1. Almost, if not all idols, are worshiped and served out of Fear.
 2. How many terrible acts have been done by man to appease an angry god. From physical mutilation to human sacrifice.
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LOVE FELLOW MAN

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- A. THE SECOND GREAT COMMANDMENT.
1. *“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”* (Matt. 22:39) (19:19).
 2. Parable of the “Good Samaritan”, given in answer to this.
- B. *“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.”* (I John 4:20,21).
1. Love, like faith is seen in what we do.
 2. James 2:14-16. What does it profit to say...and do not.
 3. If it is vain to say that we love our fellow man...Yet do not help him....
 4. WHAT IS IT TO SAY WE LOVE GOD - BUT DO NOT SERVE HIM?
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HOW DO WE KNOW

A. HOW DO WE KNOW...AND SHOW THAT WE LOVE GOD?

1. John 14:15: *“If you love me, ye will keep my commandments.”*
2. John 14:21: *“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself unto him.”*
3. John 14:23: *“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my word.”*
4. John 14:24: *“He that loveth me not keepeth not my words, and the words which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s who sent me.”*

B. NOT IN WORD ONLY:

1. *“But whoso hath the world’s good, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth.”* (I John 3:17-18).
2. The Love we have for God must be seen in the Life that we Live.....

IN WHAT WE DO!!!

CONCLUSION

- ### A. *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is begotten of God: and whosoever loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. Hereby we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”* (I John 5:1-3).

B. John 21:15-17: Jesus asks Peter 3 times “Lovest thou me....”

1. We can speculate as to why He asked Peter.
 2. But our point.....
 3. If Jesus asks you....Do you Love me...DO YOU REALLY LOVE ME?
 4. WHAT IS YOUR ANSWER?
 5. ARE YOU “THEOPHILUS”....
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