



F.Y.C.

For Your Consideration

Words of Encouragement

*Therefore
encourage one another and build up one another,
just as you also are doing.*

But we request of you, brethren,
*that you appreciate those who diligently labor among you
and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction
and that you esteem them very highly in love
because of their work.*

Live in peace with one another.

We urge you, brethren,
*admonish the unruly,
encourage the fainthearted,
help the weak,
be patient with everyone.*

See that
*no one repays another with evil for evil,
but always seek after that which is good for one another
and for all people.*

1 Thessalonians 5:11-15

LESSON: IT'S ABOUT OTHERS

All Christians need to heed these words, so that they may encourage one another.
It's giving encouragement as well as receiving it.

*At this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their
abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality.*

2 Corinthians 8:14

Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances.

Proverbs 25:11

*Bold face emphasis mine

Do You Love Jesus?

Hymn: "O How I **Love** Jesus"

What does it mean to "**Love** Jesus?"

"Love" is a word used in a variety of ways.

Love fall colors, love a story, love certain foods, etc. Often used to mean a strong "like."

In the Bible, the two Greek words for "love" are distinct: **phileo**, the love of impulse, ardent affection and feeling; **agape** (or **agapao**), the love of esteem, regard.

What does the word "love" mean in the question: "**Do you love Jesus?**"

QUESTION ASKED

That question was asked in John 21:14-22, where Jesus asked Simon son of John.

Simon (Peter) who said "even though all may fall away, I will not" "I will die with you."

Peter had denied knowing or being with Jesus. He denied it with an oath, cursed and swore.

Now three times Jesus asks him if He loves Him. Three times he says "Yes."

Then Peter is told by what kind of death he would glorify God.

A situation where proof of his love will be evident: "*will not fall away*" "*will die with you.*"

LESSON

PROOF OF LOVE IS FOUND IN ACTIONS, NOT WORDS. It is to be the motivating force behind actions. James wrote "Faith without works is dead." And love without action is just talk.

Love God?

Love of God is proved by showing reverence and respect for Him.

Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe. Heb.12:28

Love Jesus?

Love of Jesus is shown by believing and obeying Him.

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Joh.14:15

Love the brethren?

Loving others is manifested in active goodwill. "*Do good unto all men...*"

"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." Joh.15:12-13

Love exercised toward the brethren, or toward men generally, is not an impulse from the feelings, it does not always run with the natural inclinations, nor does it spend itself only upon those for whom some affinity is discovered. – Vines Greek Expository Dictionary

Summed up: "*...let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*" 1Jo.3:18

BRINGING IT HOME

Ask ourselves: Do my actions prove I love God? love Jesus? love others?

Words do not suffice. Only by the way we live can it be proved.

James wrote "Show me your faith ..." We are to show our love of Jesus!

Love Him because He first loved you. He showed His love. Show your love.



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

Selah

No doubt you have come across this word while reading the Psalms in the Old Testament. What does it mean? I did some research and found that no one knows for sure. Here is what I was able to glean from various sources:

This word is found only in the poetical books of the Old Testament, occurring seventy-one times in the Book of Psalms, and three times in Habakkuk.

God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His praise.

Habakkuk 3:3

Your bow was made bare, The rods of chastisement were sworn. Selah. You cleaved the earth with rivers.

Habakkuk 3:9

You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For the salvation of Your anointed. You struck the head of the house of the evil To lay him open from thigh to neck. Selah.

Habakkuk 3:13

MEANING

It is probably a term which had a meaning in the musical nomenclature of the Hebrews, though what that meaning may have been is now a matter of pure conjecture.

Some interpret it as meaning "silence" or "pause;" others, "end," "a louder strain," still others "to measure." The earliest Jewish traditions thought it meant "forever."



TESTING ...

"For the ear tests words as the palate tastes food."

Job 34:3

I came across this verse the other day, and it occurred to me, that just as we taste food to see if it is palatable, we need to test the words we hear. A number of Biblical passages speak of being careful what we say. But this verse teaches us to test what we hear. Here is a handy check list to use to filter out what is not fit to hear.

Test Words Before Hearing

✓	Is it true?
✓	Is it hearsay?
✓	Is it gossip?
✓	Should I hear it?
✓	Why am I being told this?
✓	Will hearing it benefit me?

Is this not what we teach our children in the song: **"O Be Careful"?**

*O be careful little ears what you hear,
O be careful little ears what you hear,
There's a Father up above
And He's looking down in love.
So, be careful little ears what you hear.*

*He who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets,
Therefore do not associate with a gossip.*

Proverbs 20:19



Ponder This

Journey

The act of traveling from one place to another.

TRUISMS

A journey begins with the first step.

A journey ends when the last step is taken.

Also true: what happens on the way determines whether the journey is completed.

A Journey Is Not Completed When One ...

gives up and turns back

But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?

Galatians 4:9



gives in to alluring side roads

But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

1 Timothy 6:9



gives over to own desires

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

2 Timothy 4:3-4



What it takes to complete the journey!

I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

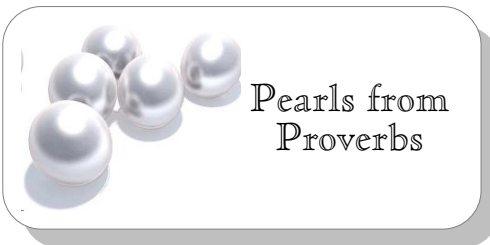


Flattery

26:28 *A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth works ruin.*

28:23 *He who rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with the tongue.*

29:5 *A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps.*



Pearls from
Proverbs

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Be thoughtful and kind!

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