

Verse 15 teaches us that simply praising Him in our heart is not good enough. Our God is a God of words (John 1:1). When God wanted light He spoke it, land, water, birds, beast, etc. God operates in words.

2) Remember to honor others .

a. siblings .

Hebrews 13:1 tells us to continue to love each other with true Christian love or keep on loving each other as brothers.

Those who have known military combat known well the sense of brotherhood that exists between those who go into battle together. The writer of the book of Hebrews speaks of this familial relationship that extends beyond that of being siblings in the literal sense.

In his book, *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putnam tells a story of that kind of relationship. Before October 29, 1997, John Lambert and Andy Boschma knew each other only through their bowling league in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Sixty-four year old Lambert had been on a kidney transplant waiting list for three years when thirty-three year old Boschma learned that he needed a kidney and offered to donate one of his to Lambert.

While in the hospital together Andy said to John, "I really like you John and I want you to know that I feel a kinship for you and would not hesitate to do this again if I could." He later told the news reporter that he barely knew John before but now he was really rooting for him. They were men of differing professions and generations. They were even of different race. But the fact that they were bowling buddies made all the difference.

When you look around the room this morning you become aware of our differences. We are of differing socio-economic groups, generations, races and ethnicities, genders, professions, marital statuses, body-types, personalities, etc. But the fact that we are Christians, brothers and sisters in Christ, makes all the difference.

The Bible reminds us to remember to love each other as brothers and sisters. We remember to reach out to each other because we are siblings.

b. strangers .

We are encouraged to entertain strangers because we just might happen to get to entertain an angel (Hebrews 13:2). But the text does speak to the occasion in Genesis when three strangers(angels) or as some believe an epiphany or theophany in which God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit made himself known by visiting Abraham and Sarah to assure them of the birth of an heir.

The context from which this teaching comes is from the early years of Christianity when the disciples moved from community to community teaching and preaching. There were no new Holiday Inn Expresses just around the corner. What they did have were more like flop-houses, roadside inns, and accommodations like we might find in some neighborhood. In the absence of any place to stay or suitable places to stay, Christians were encouraged to open their homes to the fellow Christians and particularly, traveling ministers who were in need of hospitality. Another way we might hear and understand the text today is through a newspaper story from June 29, 2005. A young woman broke off her engagement twelve days before the wedding. She and her parents had reserved the country club for a reception hosting 150 guests for \$6,200. In that the club required sixty day notice for cancellations, the family was required to pay the full amount. So they decided to have a party anyway.

In place of wedding guests, the young woman and her family invited the residents of the Interfaith Family Shelter to the country club for a banquet. So, a few family members joined over forty homeless folks for baron of beef, salmon, shrimp cocktail, fettuccine, and fruit. Strawberry shortcake replaced the wedding cake, and after the

feast they packed up the left overs and sent it back with their guests to the shelter. The almost bride was quoted as saying, "We had fun than I've ever had in my life!" That's because her and her family took the time to personally serve every person from the homeless shelter. Welcoming strangers for us is about our response to the homeless, the immigrants, and guests among us.

c. spouse .

Anyone who knows anything at all about marriage knows that it is not always easy. Norm Wakefield wrote in Volume 9, Number 4 of his writings *Marriage Partnership*, "Grace is the powerful ingredient that will bind a man and a woman together when their imperfections pull them apart."

Writing in Redbook Magazine Judith Viorst stated, "On advantage of marriage, it seems to me, is that when you fall out of love with him or he falls out of love with you, it keeps you together until you fall in love again."

I once heard someone say, "I believe marriage is an institution and anyone who wants to be married should be in one..." However, the mutual love and esteem between a man and a woman expressed through the marriage relationship is precious to God... God is serious about our honoring it. One denomination's book of worship states:

"Holy marriage is instituted by God, regulated by his commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and to be held in high honor among all people. Let us therefore remember that God has established and sanctified marriage for the welfare and happiness of the human family."

Our text (Hebrews 13:4) reminds us that God will judge those who dishonor their spouse and their marriage vows through infidelity before or during their marriage. Despite whatever other voices are saying, faithfulness and fidelity in marriage is possible and preferable and pleasing to God.

3) Remember to honor yourself .

Stay away from or keep yourself free from the love of money; be satisfied or content with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail / leave you nor forsake you." Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. NLT / NIV

Money is a tricky topic for most of us. J.C. Ryle said, "It is possible to love money without having it and it is possible to have it without loving it." Our text (Hebrews 13:5-8) warns us to "stay away" from the love of money, to stay away from or avoid getting caught up in materialism.

Growing up on the farm there were things we were instructed not to go near. We were not to go to the pond alone. We were not to play around any of the water wells. We were not to get into the pen with the bull. That reminds me of a sign that was posted on a farm pasture gate. It read, "Don't enter this pasture unless you are sure you can make it across in less than forty-five seconds. The bull that lives here can!" We were not to play in the road. We were to stay away from tractors and machinery that were moving around the farm. We were to stay away from things that were potentially harmful to us.

God doesn't necessarily see money as being harmful to us, but He does see the love of money as being harmful. God sees getting caught up in the pursuit of materialism as a harmful thing. It is harmful not only because the pursuit of things is addictive and enslaving, but it is contrary to living a life of obedience and trust.

a. Through contentment .

The first word we receive from this text regarding our love for money is to be satisfied or content with what we have. Contentment is the rule of life for the follower of Jesus Christ.

b. Through confidence .

The second word we receive from this text regarding our love for money is inferred... that word is confidence. We can be content with what we have because we are confident that God will be faithful in supplying our needs.

Philip Yancey writing in Christianity Today (March 2006) said, "I remember reading about a spiritual seeker who decided he needed to slow down a bit. He decided to interrupt his busy life to spend a few days in a monastery. The monk who showed the man his quarters said, 'If you need anything, let us know, and we will teach you how to live without it.'" God wants us to learn to live in contentment and confidence.

c. Through sacrifice .

Remembering to be grateful for the good in your life is something you do until it becomes a habitual practice. Remember to remember by making gratitude and good deeds a habit. With Jesus' help, let us continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God by proclaiming the glory of his name. Don't forget to do good things and share what you have with those in need for such sacrifices are pleasing to God (Hebrews 13:15-16).

Conclusion

Debbie Tenzer is the founder of DoOneNiceThing.com. In that Mondays were always bummer days for her, she decided that she was going to begin a new habit of starting her week off right by doing one nice thing for someone every Monday. She even wrote a book that gives a plan for doing just that.

Every Monday, Debbie Tenzer and hopefully all those who have read her book, are deliberate and conscientious about thinking of ways they can do good things for others. There are 16 Mondays remaining in the year 2016. Perhaps you would like to use the next 16 Mondays to make a habit of doing something for someone.

Doing gratitude to God and good things for others can be and should be habit forming. We want our lives to be a better sacrifice offering more praise to God. God requires a sacrifice. He always has and always will. Our sacrifice to Him is our praise as we surrender our lives to His Will.

Sacrifices Please God!

The Meaning of Sacrifice

Do we really know what sacrifice means? Sure, we understand the definition: "An act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else regarded as more important or worthy." But do we really know what it means in light of God's amazing grace bestowed upon us through His Son, Jesus Christ?

C.S. Lewis said, "When God becomes a Man and lives as a creature among His own creatures in Palestine, then indeed His life is one of supreme self-sacrifice and leads to Calvary." Watchman Nee said, "For God no cost is too high. Anything can be sacrificed if only we may please Him. Let us daily learn to be obedient children."

Two wealthy Christians, a lawyer and a merchant, joined a group that was going with others on a mission trip. Before they started, their minister earnestly asked them to observe and remember any unusual and interesting things that they might see in the missionary countries through which the party was to travel. The men promised—carelessly, perhaps—to do so. One day in Korea, they saw in a field by the side of the road a boy pulling a crude plow, while an old man held the handles and directed it. The lawyer was amused, and took a snapshot of the scene. "That's a curious picture! I suppose they are very poor," he said to the missionary who was interpreter and guide to the party. "Yes," was the quiet reply. "That is the family of Chi Noui. When the church was being built they were eager to give something to it, but they had no money so they sold their only ox and gave the money to the church. This

spring they are pulling the plow themselves." The lawyer and the businessman by his side were silent for some moments. Then the businessman said, "That must have been a real sacrifice." "Well, maybe to us, but they did not call it that," said the missionary. "They thought it was fortunate they had an ox to sell."

Sadly, we want a religion that doesn't ask us to sacrifice, not even for a moment. Do you know the story of Bob McFall? He was a 39 year old bachelor suffering from Aplastic Anemia. He needed a bone marrow transplant. A search was conducted among his family and they discovered that his first cousin was an ideal match to donate so Bob McFall could live. But when the first cousin was asked about donating, and the explanation that there would be no harm to him whatsoever, he refused to give any bone marrow. So Bob McFall sued his first cousin, and took him to court. The trial went on and on and finally a verdict was reached. While the behavior of the first cousin was considered reprehensible, the court ruled that it could not force him to give any bone marrow. Bob McFall died 3 weeks after the trial. Sacrifice, true sacrifice - is it in your vocabulary?

God Bless You!
Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp
Alternate: Isaac Waters

Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner at Noon

No Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, September 14

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 pm
Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 15

R Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, September 17

Women's Bible Study.....9:00 am

Sunday, September 18, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
Morning Worship.....10:30 am
Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Gary Yarbrough, John Lewis, Isaac Waters, Joseph Coats
Alternate: Larry McKahan

SJBA Annual Meeting..... 4 pm
No Evening Worship

Wednesday, September 21

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm
Prayer/Bible Study 6:30 pm
Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 22

O Team.....6:30 pm

Saturday, September 24

Women's Bible Study....9:00 am

Up-Coming Events.....

September 11— Business Meeting and Carry-in Dinner

September 14 — Prayer Warriors

September 18 — SJBA Annual Meeting Green Valley Baptist

Church 4:00 pm

— Collect for food Pantry

September — 28 See You At the Pole

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Nights

We will not have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you in two weeks.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner
Today, Sunday, September 11

Please join us today at our **Business Meeting and Carry-In Dinner**. We would love to have you join us as we fellowship together and carry out the business of the church.

Saint Joseph Baptist Association Annual Meeting

September 18, 2016
Green Valley Baptist Church
4:00 pm

See You At the Pole

Wednesday, September 28, at 7:00 a.m. local time, students will be gathering at their flagpoles, praying for their school, friends, families, churches, and communities. SEE YOU AT THE POLE in prayer for our generation! Please continue to pray for those in the schools

of our city.

Prayer Warriors

Wednesday, September 14

10:00 am

Here at the church.

Thank You!

We offer our gratitude to Arlette Duty for planting (and weeding) the flowers around the Church Sign. She also trimmed the shrubs this year. Be sure to tell her "Thanks!"

For the Record-

Attendance: September 4, 2016

Sunday School.....	40
Visitors.....	4
Total.....	44
Contacts Made.....	9
Morning Worship.....	52
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night	11
Wednesday Night	14

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 4,641.00

Offering Received by Mail:

September Counting Team:

Larry McKahan and Mike Green

September Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

September Birthdays:

05...Nellie Reynolds
12...Grant Schottel
20...Elmer Mayse
20...LoLeta Middleton
20...Tim Waters
22...Rachael Molloy
23...Kenny Kirkpatrick
29...Lindsey Rasmussen

September Anniversaries

No anniversaries are recorded for the month of September. If we have missed yours in error, please let us know. Thanks.

Prayer Requests ...

Maxine and George Ferbert—strength
Elvera Crow, surgery recovery
Karissa and Matt Long
Nellie Reynolds—strength
Betty Campbell—healing
Pat Puckett—eyes, healing
Marcia Hart's Family
Audrey Dugan—strength
Tim Izer and Family
Sue Higgins—regain strength
Jim Winans, surgery recovery
Alicia McKinnon
Dakota Duty, recovery
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Children's Camp
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
 Richardson's sisters
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People
Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
