

THE MOTIVE OF MISSIONS

JOHN 14

Text: John 14:15, 23

John 14:15

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:23

²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Introduction:

This is a chapter is full of certainties that are conditioned with if's. A careful look this conditional word "if" is found 7 times regarding very serious subjects.

The first of these "ifs" is found in verse 2.

John 14:2

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

If there had been no place for us in Heaven the Lord would have told us. The Lord certainly has not come to lure us into a fool's paradise.

The second “if” is found in verse 3.

John 14:3

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

He was letting His disciples know then as well as us today; if He go away, and He did, He would return again.

His home-going guarantees His return, and compels us to look for His return.

The next “if” is found in verse 7.

John 14:7

⁷ If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

The Lord states that if we really know Him, we know God. As a matter of fact, there is no knowing God rightly except through His Son.

The next “if” is found in verse 14.

John 14:14

¹⁴ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do *it*.

As we ask Him anything in His name. One may say what about questionable things?

Psalms 37:4

⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

As we delight ourselves in Him, He places in us His desire, and His desire when prayed for will certainly be heard and answered.

The next two “ifs” we read in our text and are found in verse 14 and 23, and we will have more to say about these “if” in a moment.

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The final “if” is found near the close of this chapter in verse 28.

John 14:28

²⁸ Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come *again* unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

Though His absence from our midst might seem to be a great loss to us, we are to rejoice because it is for His glory. Our love agrees with His departure, even rejoices in it. We rejoice because He has gone to the Father.

That brings me back to our text. We are considering this evening the thought of Biblical Missions. We began this series by looking at the mandate or command of missions.

Our Savior gave us this mandate five times following His resurrection and His return back to Heaven.

Those are found again:

First Mention – John 20:19-21

John 20:19-21

¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. ²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

Second Mention – Luke 24:46-48

Luke 24:46-48

⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things.

Third Mention – Matthew 28:16-20

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Fourth Mention – Mark 16:14-15

Matthew 16:14-15

¹⁴ And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. ¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Fifth Mention – Acts 1:1-9

Acts 1:1-9

¹ The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: ³ To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: ⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put

in his own power. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. ⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Certainly after considering the frequency of this mandate we must agree that this command was dear to our Savior's Heart.

What then is our motive for missions? I believe that our motive for missions as well as everything else that we are to do as Christians is found in this passage.

Notice:

1. PRINCIPLES INVOLVED

John 14:15

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John 14:23

²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

- These are developed, as a Christian matures. Often new Christians do because of duty only, out of a sense of owing the Lord.

- But love grows with knowledge – understanding we can never repay the Lord for what He has done.
- Service is now from faithfulness and not forced.
- It's no longer I have to – but I want to.

2. PROOF REVEALED

John 14:21

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 to him.

John 14:24

²⁴ He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

- Our obedience reveals we love the Lord.
- To obey is not an option for a Christian, its proof of who is a Christian.

Notice the subtle difference verses 23 and 21.

John 14:23

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John 14:21

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 to him.

As we look we will see that love and obedience are inseparable.

Notice:

Love without obedience is liberalism

Obedience without love is legalistic

Obedience based on love for the Lord will not be burdensome but a joy.

1 John 5:1-3

¹ Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

3. POSSIBILITY REVEALED

How is it possible to Love the Lord like we should and Obey His Commands?

The answer is found in John 14:16-17

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another

Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

- Without the Spirit working in us we will not love the Lord as we should nor will we obey his commandments.
- We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at Salvation.
- We are to be led by the Holy Spirit throughout our Christian life.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26

²⁶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:13-14

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

- The Holy Spirit will bring about remembrance of what our Lord has said to us.

- The Holy Spirit will testify of our Lord
 - The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth
- When it comes to the work of missions, the Holy Spirit will enable, and empower us to fulfill our Savior's Mandate regarding missions.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 4:31

³¹ And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Close:

The Mandate of Missions is certain. The Motive for Missions is our Love for our Lord. Love and Obedience are inseparable.

Therefore if we love Him we will obey His commands.

If we love Him His commands will not be a burden but rather a blessing.