

day 1: (Acts 10: 44 – 48) Do you have someone in your life who is nearly “un-loveable”? Do they seem like they have “love repellent” sprayed all over themselves every day? If the thought of loving them seems impossible, then you can identify with the relationship between the Jews and the Gentiles. It was a radically offensive thing that Peter did by suggesting that God loved the Gentiles as much as he did the Jews, but that is precisely the truth. God does love everyone, regardless of race, gender, or social position. Is there anyone you have trouble loving? Talk with God about that as you pray.

day 2: (Psalm 98) In this passage we are encouraged to sing, shout, burst forth into praise and make music. What is the cause for all this ruckus? Verses one through three tell us. The Lord has done marvelous things, he has made his salvation known, and he has remembered his love for us. What a great encouragement today. Got a pencil? How about jotting down a list of the marvelous things the Lord has done? What song is on your mind today, how about replacing it with a song of praise? Worship, real worship, begins right now, not just on Sundays. Worship the Lord with this Psalm.

day 3: (I John 5: 1-6) When we love, our behavior changes. When we love we act differently. This is what John is describing in this text. Our salvation comes about through the invisible means of faith, but after that, there are plenty of tangible things to do. Jesus says that if we love him, we obey his commands. John repeats this truth for us. Can you think of any areas of disobedience in your life? Are you knowingly trying to avoid this question? Obedience is the result of love for God.

day 4: (John 15: 9-17) Jesus’ walk matches his talk. When he urges us to love sacrificially, he uses his own death on the cross as the example. He is not asking us to do what he was unwilling to do. Great men and women have died for others, but I think Jesus is really looking here from some people who will “live” for others—people whose lives are totally given to reaching out to others in Jesus’ name. Does that describe you? If I asked your best friend, would he or she agree with your answer? As you pray today, ask the Lord if he wants you to “live” for others.

day 5: (Psalm 1) As we prepare for this Sunday, meditate on these verses. Who is blessed according to Psalm 1? What is the mental focus of the blessed person? What is the result of his/her living in this way? Who is condemned in this text? These questions will prepare you for the work of the Holy Spirit this Sunday.

“Abide in Jesus’ Love”

Sunday, May 17, 2009

John 15:9-17

I. This is Your Life!

If you’re missing peace, He is the _____!
_____!

II. Relentless Pursuit

III. Our Response?