



Grace Life Church
of Dallas

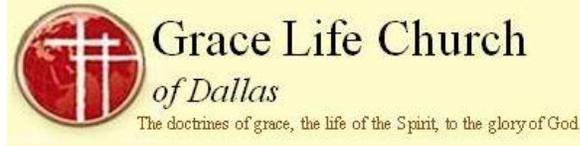
The doctrines of grace, the life of the Spirit, to the glory of God

Matthew 25:31-46

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.³⁴Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'⁴¹"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'⁴⁴Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'⁴⁵Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."



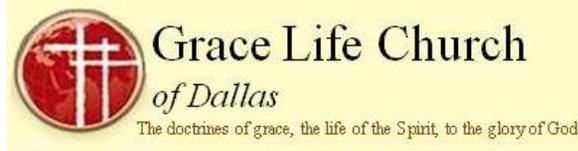
Jesus separating people at the Last Judgment, by [Fra Angelico](#), 1432-1435.



Goal for Today

Hebrews 10:24-25

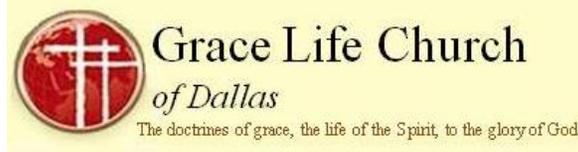
²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.



Context: Jesus and disciples at Mount of Olives (Matthew 24:3)

Disciples asked Jesus 3 Questions

1. When will the temple be torn down?
2. What will be the sign of Christ's coming?
3. What will be the sign of the end of the age?



Jesus' Answer

- He warns them not to be led astray

vs24:4 "See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and they will lead many astray"

- He warns them of birth pains that must take place before the end comes

vs24:6-8 ⁶"And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet.⁷For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.⁸All these are but the beginning of the birth pains."

- He warns them that tribulation will come

vs24:9 "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake."

- He warns them that many believers will fall away

vs24:10 "And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another."

- He warns them again that there will be those that are led astray

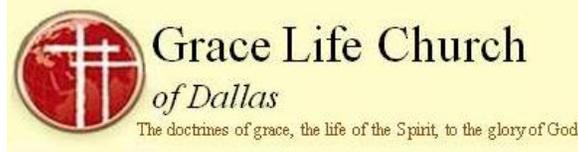
vs24:11 "And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray."

- He warns them that the love of many will grow cold

vs24:12 "And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold."

- He tells them that the one who endures to the end will be saved

vs24:13 "But the one who endures to the end will be saved."



Jesus' Answer

- He tells them that the Gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world

vs24:13 "And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

- He describes the "Abomination of Desolation"

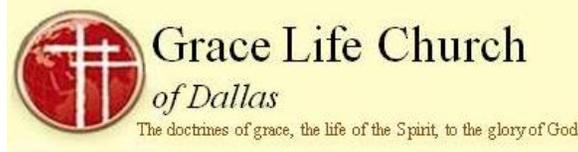
vs24:15 "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand),"

- He describes the Second Coming of Christ

vs24:29-31 ²⁹"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.³⁰Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.³¹And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

- He tells them that they should recognize the times

vs24:32-35 ³²"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.³³So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.³⁴Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.³⁵Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."



Jesus' Answer

- He tells them that no one will know the day or the hour of His return

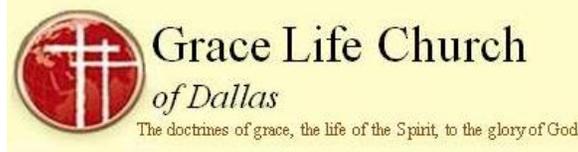
vs24:36-41³⁶"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."

- He tells them to be ready for His return

vs24:42-51⁴²"Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.⁴⁵"Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?⁴⁶Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.⁴⁷Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.⁴⁸But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,⁴⁹and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards,⁵⁰the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know⁵¹and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the 10 Virgins

⁹"But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.'¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.'¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."



Jesus' Answer

- He tells them to be good stewards of responsibilities/opportunities which have been given to them to bring increase to the kingdom

Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents

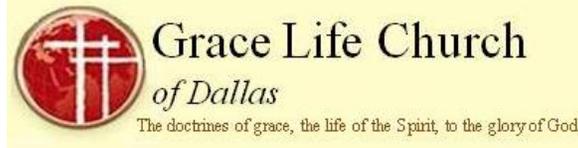
vs25:30 "And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

- He tells them that there will be judgment at His return where He will separate sheep from the goats

vs25:31-33 ³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left."

- He tells them that the sheep will inherit the kingdom that God has prepared for them

vs25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"



What will be the basis for identifying the sheep?

“You who are blessed of my Father”

It is His mercy and grace!

Ephesians 2:4-10

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



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Identifying marks of Goats vs Sheep

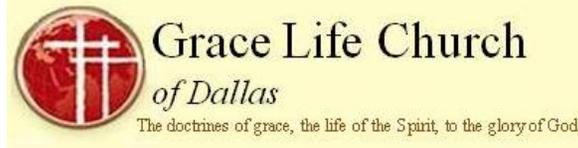


Goats

⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

Sheep

³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,³⁶I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.



One of the most distinguishing marks of a believer is love...

Love is the greatest command in scripture:

Old Testament

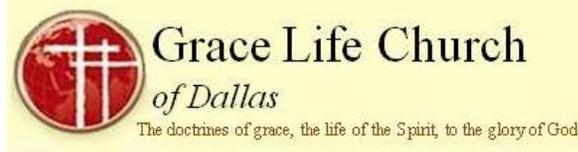
Deuteronomy 6:5

⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

New Testament

Mark 12:28-31

²⁸And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" ²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'³⁰And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'³¹The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."



Throughout scripture, believers are described by their love

Book of 1st John alone:

1 John 1:10 *Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.*

1 John 3:11 *For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.*

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.*

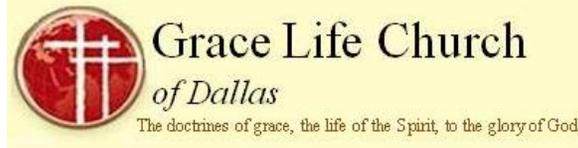
1 John 3:16-17 ¹⁶ *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.*
¹⁷ *But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?*

1 John 3:18-19 ¹⁸ *Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.* ¹⁹ *By this we shall know that we are of the truth and reassure our heart before him;*

1 John 3:23 *And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.*

1 John 4:7-8 ⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.* ⁸ *Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

1 John 4:11 *Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*



Book of 1st John continued

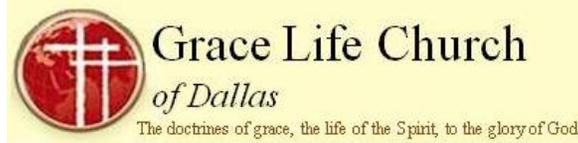
1 John 4:12 *No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.*

1 John 4:16b-17 *God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.*

1 John 4:19-21 ¹⁹*We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. ²¹ And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.*

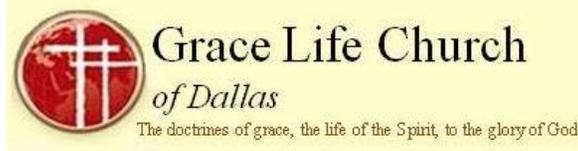
Conclusion of 1st John:

¹³ *I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*



Will you be ready?

- One thing is certain, we will face judgment, whether it be at Christ's return, or when we die.
Hebrews 9:27 - *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,*
Is your faith and hope in Christ Jesus or your own good works?
- Will you be found unprepared as they were in the days of Noah?
Matthew 24:38-39 - *³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark,³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*
Will you be found worrying more about the cares of this world, or more about eternal things?
- Will it be possible for you to be led astray?
Matthew 24:24 - *For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.*
Will you know God's word and be able to recognize false teachers, or will you be easily deceived because you do not spend time in God's word?



Will you be ready?

- Will you be able to endure to the end despite trials and tribulation?

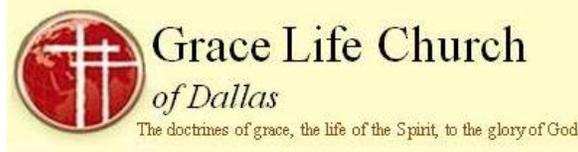
1 Peter 1:3-9 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith--more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Is your hope a living hope?

- Are you a good steward of the responsibilities and opportunities you have to advance God's kingdom?

Matthew 25:21 - His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

Will the father say of you "well done good and faithful servant?"



Will you be ready?

- Is Christ's love a mark that identifies you as one of His sheep?

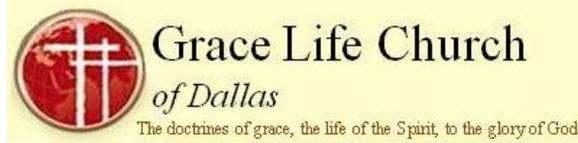
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 ¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Love begins with God.

Do you serve him in all faith, but do it reluctantly or begrudgingly? Or do you do it out of love and genuine heart?

Love extends to how you treat others, starting with people that are closest to you.

Are you patient, kind, truthful, or are you irritable, arrogant, or rude?



Is love a distinguishing characteristic of your life?

- Love extends to the church:

Galatians 6:10 *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

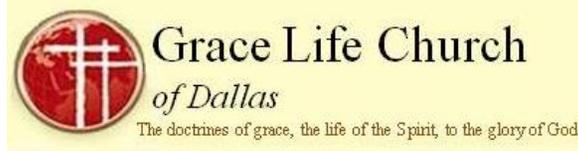
Are you taking opportunities to serve those within the Body of Christ?

- Love extends to all in need

Luke 10:25-37 Parable of the Good Samaritan

²⁵And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" ²⁷And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Are you loving to your neighbor, or have you become bitter and hard hearted towards others?



Will you be ready?

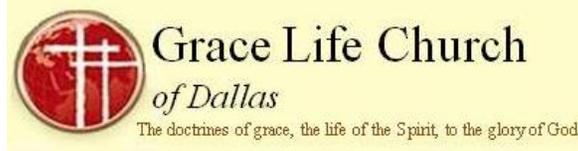
- Jesus took it a few steps farther:

Luke 6:27-36 ²⁷"But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either.³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back.³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.³²"If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

What about your enemies? This one is the hardest, but Jesus still asks us to do it.

Matthew 25:37-40 ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?³⁸And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?³⁹And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'⁴⁰And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

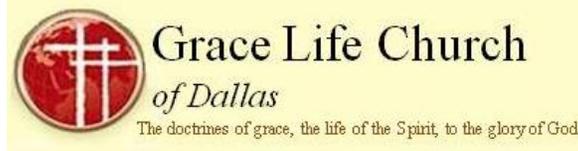
Are you aware that how you love and treat others demonstrates your love for Christ?



In Summary

Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.



And when you find yourself falling short:

Romans 3:21-25

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it-- ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.