

THANK YOU!
Alexis Brown
Today's Speaker

REMINDER...Business Meeting today at 2:30 p.m.

God's Thoughts and Ways

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9

April Birthdays

3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson
16 Alana Hudson 23 Shannon Hudson

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

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"Love or Like"

By Bill Brandstatter

The two words above are confusing to many people. I can love someone but not like certain practices. I can love someone because of the soul which God put in them; but I may not like their lifestyle or habits. God is a God of love; (1 John 4:18) but God doesn't like all of man's behaviors and practices.

He loved Adam and Eve. They were God's first human creations. God loved them so much that He gave them a paradise home. Because He loved them, He gave them some commandments to guide them in their paradise. They chose not to follow those commands. As a result, they were expelled from the Garden of Eden and death came on the human race. He didn't like what they did, but He loved them.

He loved people in Noah's day. People became more and more wicked. (Genesis 6:5) God was sorry He made man and was grieved in His heart. (Genesis 6:6) God still loved mankind but was sorrowful about the behavior and lifestyle of those created after His image. So, God caused a great flood to come upon the earth. Everything was destroyed. The only survivors were Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives and the animals in the ark. God didn't do this because He hated man. He did it because He didn't like what they were doing, and they were creating problems for themselves.

He loves people today. He wants all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:4) God is in the soul business. Man is in the flesh business. Man wants to justify self. God wants to save man from sin. So, when man reads the Bible, he thinks in different terms than God does (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Sometimes that which God condemns, man approves. That which man approves God often condemns (Isaiah 10:30).

What man loves, God does not always like or approve (Isaiah 5:20). Man loves pleasure and sinful activity. God loves man but hates every evil way. God does not hate the person, but He often does hate their behavior. Jesus said the gate many would go through is broad and wide and the gate to heaven is narrow and difficult (Matthew 7:13-14). Man must make choices. If we know the word of God, we can better make the choices God wants us to make. He gave us the Bible because He loves us, yet He doesn't always like the things that we do. He demonstrates His love for us "*in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:8).

Humility Comes Before Exaltation

By Edd Sterchi

Philippians 2:5-11 is a wonderful treatise on Jesus Christ. He came from heaven as God but lived upon the earth as human. He lived a sinless life so that He could be our perfect sin offering. Verses 8 and 9 reveal something that we often miss concerning all of this: "*And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name.*"

Since Jesus was our perfect example (Philippians 2:5; 1 Peter 2:21), it is important that we note this formula: Humility comes before exaltation. If we want God to exalt us, we must first humble ourselves before Him. To humble ourselves means to put God above every aspect of our lives, be obedient to His will, and fully trust in Him – just as Jesus did. If we do this, we are guaranteed exaltation.

"And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted" (Matthew 23:12).

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4:10).

"Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 5:6).

Cows and Christians

By Joe Slater

A city slicker bought a farm and moved into the farmhouse. He went to his new neighbor and asked if he might purchase a milk cow. The neighbor sold him his prize milk cow, and the city slicker happily took the cow to the barn on his farm.

Within three weeks the cow went dry. The city slicker returned to his neighbor and complained: "That milk cow you sold me is no good!" The astonished neighbor replied, "What do you mean?" The city slicker explained: "She has gone dry! I can't understand it, either. If ever a person was kind and considerate to an animal, I was to that cow. If I didn't need any milk, I didn't milk her. If I needed only a quart, I took only a quart." The neighbor then explained that the way to keep milk flowing wasn't to take as little as possible from the cow, but to take as much as possible.

Isn't that true of the life of a Christian? Like milk cows, we must keep giving on order to keep the flow of Christianity alive. We are to give of our time, our talent, and our treasure. If we give of these things only when an extraordinary need arises, we miss the opportunities and joys of day-to-day service.

In the case of the milk cow, there is always a need for more milk. Not everyone has a full stomach. All over the world there are hungry people. Besides, the "use it or lose it" factor is obvious. Likewise, there is always more to do in the Lord's kingdom. There are classes to be taught, discouraged people to be encouraged, sick and homebound people to be visited or called or written to, missionaries to be supported and encouraged, lost friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors to be contacted, and a world full of people to be prayed for. If we are content to do only a tiny bit, we may end up doing nothing at all. On the other hand, if we will give and give of our time, talent, and treasure, God will supply every need and give us additional opportunities to glorify Him and bless other people's lives.