**The call to Christian Obedience – Matt. 22:37 -38**

**Focal Truth: The supreme act of Christian obedience is love for God**

Deut. 6:5 – the command to love God supremely

**Observations**

1. **Loving God is personal –** Matt. 22:37 – you shall love the Lord your God
2. Ps. 18:1 I love You, O Lord, my strength
3. **Loving God is spiritual –** Matt. 22:37 with all your heart, soul & mind
4. Heart – feelings & desires
5. Soul – spirit – the immortal being inside the body
6. Mind – knowledge, understanding, thinking
7. Deut. 11:13 – love the Lord your God serve Him with all your heart and soul
8. **Loving God is praising Him**
9. Ps. 18:2 – 6 - the Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliever, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, My shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. The cords of death encompassed me, and the torrents of ungodliness terrified me. The cords of Sheol surrounded me, the snare of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried to my God for help, He heard my voice out of His temple, and my cry for help before Him came to His ears
10. Ps. 135:3 – Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good, sing praises to His name, for it is lovely
11. Song of Songs 5:16 – His mouth is full of sweetness. And he is wholly desirable.
12. **Loving God is putting Him first in all things -** Col.1:18 – He will come to have first place in all things
13. Matt. 28:18 – all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth
14. John 3:30 - He must increase, but I must decrease
15. Ps. 72:17 – May His name endure forever, may his name increase as long as the sun shines, and let men bless themselves by him, Let all the nations call him blessed
16. **Loving God because He is God –** Ps. 116:1 – I love the Lord because He has heard my voice
17. Ps. 45:1 – 2 - My heart overflows with a good theme, I address my verses to the King, my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. You are fairer than the sons of men, grace is poured on Your lips, therefor God has blessed You forever.
18. Ps 45:6 – Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom
19. **Loving God is loving Him most –** Phil 3:8 – I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord
20. **Loving God is trusting Him completely –** Ps.116:7 – return to your rest, O my soul

 2 Thess. 3:5 – the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God

1. **Loving God is complete obedience to Him –** Matt. 22:36 – what is the greatest commandment?
2. Deut. 11:22 – love the Lord Your God and walk in His ways always
3. 1 John 5:3 – for this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome

**Things to Remember**

1. The greatest act of obedience is loving God
2. Christians can love God because He loves them first!
3. Loving God is a condition of the heart
4. Thinking about the love of God motivates love for God
5. Love God like the Lord Jesus loved God the Father
6. Loving God is doing His will
7. Strength in troubles grows as we love God – Ps. 18:1 – I love you, O Lord, my strength
8. Obeying God puts trust in God’s wisdom to command not in the power to obey

**Daily Use**

1. Examine yourself do you love God?
2. Have you accepted God’s love for you?
3. Praise God and tell Him that you love Him!
4. Commit to the Lord that you will obey from because of your love for Him