

# Essentials for Eternal Life

Wednesday Gathering; Week of Sunday, July 26, 2020; Steve Thiel

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**Sermon Theme: At the final judgment, all will be evaluated on the basis of whether or not they kept the Law to love God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength and to love their neighbor in Christ as themselves, which are both necessary and essential works that attend the reality of true and saving faith!**

## **I. Neighbor in the Bible – Read Leviticus 19:1-4, 11-18, 33-34**

- A. As you think about the O.T., what key passages highlight “neighbor” as being a member of the covenant community? What is the significance of “neighbor” in the 10 Commandments?
- B. What connections do you make between the commands in Leviticus and the commands in James 4:11-5:12? As you think about the differences between the covenant community in the O.T. and the N.T. (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27), how would you describe those differences?
- C. How are passages like Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 5:13-15, Ephesians 4:25, 1 John 3:23 and 1 John 4:19-21 helpful as we think about the identity of our neighbor?

## **II. Neighbor in the Good Samaritan – Read Luke 10:25-37**

- A. How is the context of Luke helpful as we consider this parable? Can you think of any passages in particular that highlight insider and outsider language in Luke (i.e. Luke 7:36-50; 17:11-19)?
- B. What observations do you make about the parable? Why is it critical to interpret verses 29-37 in light of verses 25-28? What are some of the reasons why we know these two parts go together?
- C. What details in the parable are most shocking to you: the behavior of the Levite and priest, or the Samaritan? What about the Samaritan’s behavior demonstrates that he understands and keeps the 2<sup>nd</sup> great commandment? How does their “doing” or “not doing” highlight who’s “in” and “out”?
- D. How would you like to grow in loving your neighbor as yourself? What changes need to take place in your life to have time and resources available to actively love your brother and sisters in Christ?

## **III. Neighbor in the Community – Read Ephesians 4:1-4, 11-32; 5:1-2**

- A. As you think about Ephesians 4:1-3, 12, 15-16, what are some ways in which you could help this church grow in building up the body in love? Why are humility, gentleness and patience essential?
- B. As you think about the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20, what changes need to take place in your life in order to love your unbelieving neighbor next door with the gospel?
- C. After reading Revelation 7:9-10, how does the throne room of heaven filled with people from every nation, tribe, and people an encouragement to love your neighbor as yourself?