

# My Heart in His



By Brandon Britton



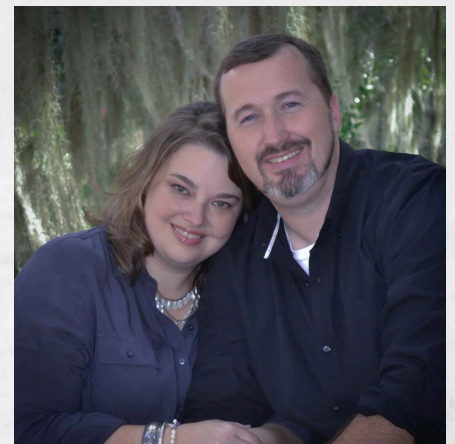
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# My Heart in His Hands

The two most likely reactions are to seek vengeance against the evildoers, or to join in and get what you can as well. David, however, offers an alternative. “Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb” (Psalm 37:1-2). David’s comfort is in knowing that the Lord will handle the balancing of the books. There will come a day when God will recompense the evil that men do and redeem those who have suffered unjustly. But until then, what can we do? It is easy enough for

David to say “Don’t fret, don’t be jealous”, but if it were as simple as flipping a switch, we would do it already. One of the reasons I love this Psalm is because David doesn’t just tell us what not to do, he tells us what we can do: “Trust in the LORD and do good...Delight thyself also in the LORD...Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him...Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for him” (Psalm 37:1-7). David doesn’t just tell us what not to do, he gives us something to actively do. I have often followed this pattern in teaching my children. I tell them it’s not enough to just abstain from doing bad things, we also need to be actively engaged in doing good things. When we find ourselves busy “about our Father’s business” we don’t have time to get into trouble. Although it isn’t in the Bible, the principle of this old proverb is, “An idle mind is the Devil’s workshop.” David says when you find yourself troubled by the evil in the world and the seeming lack of consequences, trust in the Lord, delight in Him, commit your ways to Him and rest in Him. All of this advice is fantastic, but the verse that I love the most, I love for completely different reasons than contextually intended by David.

I am (at the time of this writing) the father of a seventeen year old son and a fifteen year old son. For over a decade and a half I have spent nearly every day with them. For half of those years we homeschooled so there wasn’t much time in a day that we weren’t together. I helped teach them how to walk, talk, speak, dress themselves, ride a bicycle, preach a sermon, drive a car and so much more. Because of all of these things, I can honestly say that I know my children very well. I know what they like and what they don’t like. I know what they are afraid of and I know their strengths and weaknesses. I know how to motivate them and I know what discourages them. I know what they want and what they don’t want. I know when something is bothering them and I often know what it is without them telling me. I know what they want

One of our favorite games to play in our family is the, “What is your favorite.....” game. What is your favorite food, song, kind of car, vacation destination, movie, book, and on and on we go. Some of these are easy to answer and some are difficult. Some of these have concrete answers that haven’t changed in years, while others may be different each time the question is asked. This is most often the case when I am asked about my favorite (fill in the blank) concerning the Bible. What’s your favorite book of the Bible? Who is your favorite Bible character? Usually the answer to these questions have to do with my current state in life. Whether I am happy, sad, angry, afraid, content, confused or any other emotion, usually determines which book or character is my favorite at the time. However, this isn’t the case when it comes to my favorite Bible passage. There are dozens of verses, passages or sections of Scripture that I absolutely love. There are some that I thoroughly enjoy preaching or teaching in a Bible class. There are a number of verses that I enjoy discussing with friends around the dinner table, but when it comes to a favorite passage, there is only one clear choice for me. “Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart” (Psalm 37:4).

My favorite passage is found in a chapter that was written by David in a time of anger and struggle over the prosperity of the wicked. The good king was angry because he saw men who were selfish and cruel and doing evil to the helpless and poor, yet they prospered. This is a theme that still continues today. We are accustomed to scandals of greed such as Enron and Bernie Madoff, where those with power, money and influence, steal from those who have little or nothing. Sadly, we know that for every one that is caught, there are likely hundreds more who are getting away with it. Corruption has always existed and good people have always been frustrated by it.



and what makes them happy, usually without them informing me. And whenever possible, I love to give them the things that bring them joy. I know them. In the same fashion, my Heavenly Father knows me, only infinitely more. He knows the thoughts and intents of my heart, my desires and fears, strengths and weaknesses. He knows me better than I know myself and has with this, the ability to know the end of a thing before the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). Knowing this causes this passage to provide hope and joy, but having experienced it in my life makes it resonate in my life daily.

Here is what this passage means to me. If I make the Lord and His will the priority in my life; if my joy comes from seeking His will and serving Him, then He will, with joy, reciprocate. As a father there is nothing I enjoy more than seeing my children happy and knowing that I brought that joy to them. And if I, a frail and flawed father know how and enjoy doing this for my children, how much more does my Heavenly Father take pleasure in doing this for me (Matthew 7:11)? I do not presume this passage to mean that He will give me whatever I want, whenever I want it. What I want may not be what is best for me. When I want it may not be the best time for me. But if it is according to His will and for my good, He will give me the desires of my heart. I know this because the Bible tells me so and I know this because He has done this for me. It wouldn't be practical for me to list all of the examples of things He has done in my life, but suffice it to say, I am exactly where I wanted to be and dreamed I would be when I was a teenager. Although not according to the path I thought I would take to get here, He has brought me in His own time and His own way to the place my heart desires.



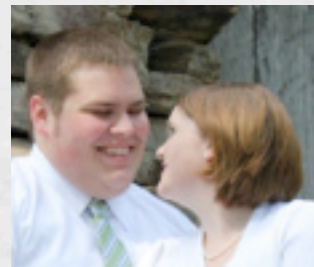
## LEARNING WITH LINKS

1. What Is The Secret to True Obedience? - Ben Giselbach
2. When Not To Be A Barnabas - Ben Giselbach
3. Is God Love, Or Is Love God? - Ben Giselbach
4. What Makes "In Jesus' Name" So Offensive - Neal Pollard
5. God's Compassion in the Old Testament - Caleb Colley
6. When Someone Hates God - Caleb Colley
7. A Difference of Degree - Caleb Colley
8. On The Hot Seat - Caleb Colley
9. A Christian Off To College - Caleb Colley
10. Is The Day of the Gospel Meeting Over - Chris Clevenger
11. What Is Your Church's Name? - Chris Clevenger



12. Open Letter: Dear Denominationalism - Chris Clevenger
13. How Many Churches Did Jesus Build - Chris Clevenger
14. Rome: Ancient Supercity - Chris Clevenger
15. The Making of a Proverbs 31 Woman - Steven Hunter
16. We've Preached Modesty to Girls. Now, Let's Talk to the Boys - Steven Hunter
17. To You Who Bring Small Children to Church - Steven Hunter
18. What Israel Can Teach Us About Hearing the Bible Read - Steven Hunter
19. How Christians Can Remain Faithful in Godless Surroundings - Steven Hunter
20. Paul's Emphasis on Obedience in Romans - Steven Hunter

Lee Snow is the preacher for the Gray Church of Christ in Gray, GA. He is the Editor of the PFP.





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Has it been one month already? It has and you have asked some great questions this month! Let me continue to encourage you to study and ask those question that you have a difficulty in answering. I do not have all the answers but if you and I open our minds and Bibles, we can find the answers from God's holy and matchless word. Let's get a Bible and dig in!

### ***1. Why is the offering not collected on Wednesday night?***

The idea of the offering being taken up on Wednesday nights seems very odd to me because I have never even thought of this idea. Paul, by the inspiration of God mandated when the formal collection of money by the church was to take place. Notice the following: "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, **even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you** lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 16:1-2)

Because the defined day was given by God for a formal collection of money, it is necessary to understand the Law of Exclusions. The greatest Biblical example of this law is found in Genesis 6. As god commanded Noah to build an ark of Gopher wood, would the ark been a floating vessel had Noah built it out of OAK? Certainly, the answer is NO. Why? It is due to the fact that the rule of God was not followed. The building material was changed. Michael Shepherd, a wonderful gospel preacher, stated it this way: "This ( an incorrectly built boat) would have been the first record of the world's original SUBMARINE!"

So when God say the collection is to be taken up on Sunday (the first day of the week; every week), then you and I cannot add to or subtract from God's command. (Deuteronomy 4. 2, Proverbs 30.5-6, Revelation 22.18-19)

**If the only time you and I give is on Sunday, then we have missed the point of giving.** While the formal collection is regulated on Sunday, we should be giving EVERY DAY. Are the poor only with us on Sunday? Are the needy only needy on Sunday? **GIVING IS A MINDSET OF A CHRISTIAN, NOT JUST AN ACT OF WORSHIP UNTO GOD.**

***2. In class (public school), we are studying Greek mythology. One video said some Greek mythology is the foundation of Christianity. Is this true?***

The idea of the truth of God being contaminated by Humanistic thought is becoming so common place that we are starting to overlook the perversion of God's Word. **The answer is NO! MYTHOLOGY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GOD OR THE CHURCH!**

The gods of mythology are founded under the premise that man needed to uncover the reason of the physical world. These gods and goddesses are just like people. They are cunning. They are liars. They are the bases examples of mankind. The Greeks would look at these gods and say "We are the same as our gods, therefore we are alright." Can you see the difference yet between the Bible and mythology?

The God of all gods, the Creator is not founded in any premise. He is the foundation FOR EVERY premise. He is holy and righteous. He is not base. He is not deceitful. He is not ever a liar. God requires that all of mankind change to His standard, not changing gods to my standard.

But what does that have to do with the church? EVERYTHING! The church has always been the plan of God for mankind. "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; **And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places **might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God**, According to the **eternal purpose** which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:" (Ephesians 3:8-11)

I firmly believe this: Greek mythology or any other false religion tries to attach itself to God and



and His church to give it some truth.

### ***3. What is Hades?***

What a great question and at the same time, what a difficult question. Hades means covered or unseen. But what is it?

Well, you and I can read about it in Luke 16:19-31. You and I read about two fellows who lived in this life and passed away. One, named Lazarus, woke up in Hades in comfort. The other fellow woke up in Hades in Torments. Within this description of Hades a large gulf is also in this Hadean realm.

I think of Hades as a large holding cell. This would be very similar to the idea we understand in the United States judicial system. When a person is convicted of a crime, they are detained by the local law enforcement until the day of sentencing. As I read, I see the realm of Hades in this same way. Everyone will already know their eternal home when they get to Hades.

So why is there a need for a final day of judgment if I know my sentence when I get to Hades? It is the formality of Judgment and the beginning of Eternity.

I hope this study has been as profitable for you as it has been for me. Remember our mindset as we study "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

1st Thessalonians 5:21

**Billy Hayes preaches for the  
Fairview Road Church of Christ in  
Gadsden, AL. He also directs a week  
of youth camp at Indian Creek Youth  
Camp.**

# **THE BEST PART**

The best part of anything having to do with the Bible and the divine God in Heaven is the fact that He has provided a way by which a man can be saved from his sins. Paul wrote that every single person, attempting to justify himself by way of his own means, has fallen short of the mark and has therefore been guilty of trespasses (Romans 3:23). But, thanks be to God, He has not left us alone in order to find our salvation! He has sent Himself, in Jesus Christ, to die on a cross for the forgiveness of all man's sins (John 3:16). BUT, we have to access that salvation which is freely available. How does someone do that?

Hear - Romans 10:17

Believe - John 8:24

Repent - Acts 2:38

Confess - Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16

If you have not done these things, or have never even heard such things, please contact us at the PFP. We would love to help you in your spiritual life so that you can be accepted by the Lord (2 Cor. 5:9).

# *Deviations From God's Marriage Plan*



Josh Clevenger is the preacher for the Rockmart Church of Christ in Rockmart, GA and a graduate of Memphis School of Preaching.





God created marriage on the sixth day of the creation week, and has been governing it ever since. Man was created with physical and emotional needs, and marriage was created as the only atmosphere in which those needs should be expressed and fulfilled. Sex is an important part of marriage, and should only be experienced within a marriage; however, legitimate sexual unions are far rarer than illegitimate, because man has chosen his own path. Bestiality, premarital sex, homosexuality, polygamy, infidelity, and unscriptural remarriage are attacks upon the God-ordained institution of marriage. God's plan is—and always has been—one man and one woman for one lifetime. No man has the right to change that formula.

Bestiality is not as widespread an issue as many of the others; however, the practice does exist. Bestiality is the taking of an animal as a sexual partner. This was proven to be an unlawful deviation from God's plan by the very creation of woman. While naming all of the animals, Adam recognized that there was not a suitable mate for him among them (Gen. 2:18-22). There is no more fundamental fact than this: animal and man are not suited for sexual union.

Premarital sex is a plague upon humanity. It has become accepted fact that teenagers begin having sex before they are capable of living on their own, voting, or (in most cases) even driving. Living together has become an expected step between dating and marriage. There are now over-the-counter tests for sexually transmitted diseases, acknowledging that this is a regular concern for a large number of people. Virginity has become a cause for shame, rather than a badge of honor. Abortion has become a commonplace medical procedure. Most children that are born grow up without the influence of a father. All this can be traced to one biblical word—fornication. “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication” (1 Thess. 4:3). Fornication is defined as sexual intercourse outside of the marriage bond, and is expressly forbidden by God—despite man's opinion on the matter.

Homosexuality, although in existence throughout all the ages of man, has only recently reached the pinnacle of wickedness to which it is now extended. Ancient societies were aware of the practice, but almost uniformly looked down upon the practice. Modern society celebrates this corrupt union. The Bible exposes it as sin (1 Cor. 6:9), but modern society has deemed it an “alternative lifestyle.” Same-sex “marriages” are becoming increasingly commonplace, and speaking

against this sin is being touted as bigotry. This is a clear departure for God's ways.

Polygamy has been around since before the global flood of Noah's day. During the patriarchal age and mosaic dispensation, this deviation from God's marriage plan was tolerated, but never condoned. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent” (Acts 17:30). In Matthew 19, Jesus reasserted God's original marriage plan, thus making it no longer acceptable to deviate from it. To be a polygamist is to have one wife, and cheat on her with all the others. A polygamist would not see this as truth, but it is.

Infidelity is another departure from God's marriage plan. A husband is only to share with his wife in sexual activity, and a wife is only to share with her husband. To go outside of the marriage for sexual fulfillment is termed “adultery” by scripture (Ex. 20:14). This is plainly a sin, but is practiced far too often. Television shows, books, and movies have even been produced which celebrate this wicked behavior.

Perhaps the most troubling of all the departures from God's marriage plan is that of unlawful divorce and remarriage. Government has deemed it lawful to divorce for any cause, and to remarry as many times as you would like. As a result, around fifty percent of marriages end in divorce, and it is not uncommon to meet someone who has been married three or four times. God clearly sets different boundaries than man on this issue. In Matthew 19, Jesus clearly stated that a marriage is not to be broken (Matt. 19:6), except in response to infidelity by the other party (Matt. 19:9). It is clearly stated that, in the event of divorce, only one party is permitted the right of remarriage—the innocent individual whose spouse has committed adultery (Matt. 19:9). All others (those who divorce for another cause, those put away for another cause, or those put away because they committed adultery) have no rights to remarriage. Man has given every excuse imaginable to circumvent the Lord's teaching on this matter, but the words of Christ stand regardless.

It is obvious that God has set the rules, and man has broken them. Let us live by God's standards, rather than man's. God's plan still stands as the best way, and the only way that leads to true happiness—in this life and the next.



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BY: DON GAREY,  
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# I WANT TO LIVE LIKE THAT

by: Travis Byars

I was listening to a song the other day called "I Want To Live Like That." And I thought back a few years ago, and having friends in school and at work who talked about the Bible and sometimes I would jump right in, and sometimes I wouldn't. So I pose a question to you, Have you ever been around friends at school, or at work and they began talking about the Bible, and then you asked yourself what will people think of me if I get involved in this conversation on religion with my friends? I want to help them but how? I now always think about Jesus being a young boy and questioning the teachers and teaching in the Synagogue even at such an early age. (Luke 2:46-47)

I also think about how the Apostles quite often went to Synagogues to preach and teach where religious discussions were taking place and Paul went to Mar's Hill, a place of religious worship to Idols. And where religious discussions took place and joined right in and taught them the truth from what they already understood and attempted to bring their thinking to a place of truth and not speculation. Joining in on our friends and families discussions can be challenging. Questions often race through our minds.

1. Do I know enough?
2. What if they get mad at me?
3. What if they make accusations against me or the church?
4. What If I don't have an answer to one of their questions

We sometimes think: "Is this the right time, should I wait, should I go for it." A million different questions race through our heads. Sometimes it is best to dive right in and try to help them learn if we are prepared to answer and discuss with them; but if we aren't, sometimes its best simply to listen and try to understand what they believe and why they believe it, And it will make it easier when have prepared to talk to them later.

Perhaps you have thought to yourself what will people think of me after I'm gone from this life. This sometimes begins as we begin to get older, but it should also be on our minds somewhat in our younger years as well because on a tombstone there are 2 dates, Our Day of Birth, and our Day of Death, but what's important, is what happened during that dash between them.

- Was I love when no one else would show love?
- Was I help when no one else was there to help?
- Did I act like Jesus would? Even to the least, to the hurt, homeless, downtrodden, weak, sick, suffering, depressed, to the orphan, aged, lost worldly man or woman who may look totally disinterested in hearing about God?
- Do I Live a life that makes my Father in heaven proud?
- Do I live a life that would make my Brother, Christ, say: "He is trying his best to be like me."

In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul tells us to be followers of his, but only as he is of Christ. In essence what Paul is telling us is to be followers of Christ, or as the Greek says, "*Mimetes*" where we get our word Mimic or imitator. I am, You are, We are to be mimics of Christ. Am I an Imitator or Mimic of Christ? Does my life Reflect his life so that when people see me that they see Christ living in me?

When we as Christians come together and sing to God, Do we just sing the lyrics or are we worshiping God with my Heart, Soul, Body, and Strength? Luke 10:27 tells us to Love our God with All of our Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind. And Jesus tells us that if we love him we will keep his commandments, (John 14:15) and his command for us is to Sing and make Melody in hearts to the Lord. ( Eph 5:19). So when we sing to our God, let

us give our everything to Him, and when we assemble to worship let us clear our minds, and prepare our hearts to come before the throne-room of God and worship the creator of the world. But lets give God our all not just when we are singing and worshipping on Sunday Mornings and Wednesday nights.

Let us determine to live our lives with that kind of mentality. Let us give God all that we are, so that every thing we say and everything we do points to Christ. If God is love, and we are to be mimics of him then we are to also be Love. If love is really who is we are, then this is where we must stand. Never holding back, but Living like Christ, and Loving God and our neighbors with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength.

We must ask ourselves a question, "Am I proof that Christ is who he says is? That God's Love, and God's Grace, and God's Word can really change a heart, Do I live like his love is true?" Is there evidence that I have been changed? Am I the same person I was the day before we were baptized? What have I changed or what have I focused on in my life to say, "I've improved here, I don't do that any more, I'm working to become more like my Master, my Savior and, my King."

I want to show the world the Love Christ gave to you and me. I want the world to know the Glory of the King of Kings. I want to live like that, and Give it all I have, so that everything I say and everything I do points to Christ. So that when people see us they say I want what that man has.

- Why is he so Positive?
- Why is he so Happy?
- What is that Book he is always reading?

Because without that kind of Love, that fierce, unending love that is a 1 Cor 13:4-7 kind of love that is:

- Patient
- Kind
- Does not envy or boast;
- It is not arrogant or rude
- It does not insist on its own way
- It is not irritable or resentful
- It does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.
- Love bears all things
- Believes all things
- Hopes all things
- Endures all things.

Because Without that kind of love it doesn't matter:

**1Cor. 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.**

**1Cor. 13:2 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.**

**1Cor. 13:3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,\* but have not love, I gain nothing.**

Lets issue a challenge to ourselves that tomorrow we will go out of our way to do something good for someone else. Whether it's paying for someone's meal behind us at the drive-through or whatever it is you decide to do. Let's do something good for someone tomorrow. Sometimes we live in our own little worlds. Lets look around and say an encouraging word to someone who may not always get encouragement, may not have a lot of friends, or may be lonely. I look at the Life of Christ, and the Apostles, and see the love God has for mankind, and I say to myself. I want to Live like that.