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November 22, 2020
DEEPENING OUR SOULS
Matthew 22:34-40 & John 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION:

A. At the core of our deepening soul is a desire to love God and be loved by God.

"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.

This is the first and greatest commandment."

— Matthew 22:37

I. GOD EXTENDS A DIVINE INVITATION.

A. God's part is that He invites us into a relationship with Him.

Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes.

— Ephesians 1:4

B. It is God who has placed in us a desire to be in relationship with Him.

He has planted eternity in the human heart...

— Ecclesiastes 3:11

Humbly welcome the Word which has been planted in you and can save your souls.

— James 1:21b (New Jerusalem Bible)

II. GOD WANTS US TO KNOW HIM.

A. God has revealed Himself so that we can know Him.

• God has revealed Himself.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

I will be found by you," declares the Lord...

— Jeremiah 29:13-14a

B. God wants us to find him.

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.

— Romans 10:9

III. GOD WANTS TO TEACH US.

A. God wants to teach us so we can grow spiritually.

"When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into the truth."

— John 16:13a

"But the Counselor, the Comforter, the holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name will teach you all things. And He'll remind you of everything that I have said to you."

— John 14:26

B. The Holy Spirit encourages us in the Transformation process.

(Jesus said) "My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

— John 10:10

IV. GOD WANTS TO BRING GOOD FROM WHAT IS BAD OR EVIL.

A. God wants to empower us so we can endure when bad or evil comes our way.

We are well aware that God works with those who love Him, those who have been called in accordance with His purpose, and turns everything to their good.

— Romans 8:28 (New Jerusalem Bible)

B. Spiritual power is much stronger than our own willpower.

We pray that you'll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul — not the grim strength of gritting teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy.

— Colossians 1:11 (The Message)

CONCLUSION: