

Golden Text: 1 John 4:16

¹⁶ And so we ·know [have come to know] the love that God has for us, and we ·trust [believe; rely on] that love. God is love. Those who ·live [abide; remain] in love ·live [abide; remain] in God, and God ·lives [abides; remains] in them.

Responsive Reading: Psalms 36:7, 8

⁷ God, ·your love is so precious [^L how precious is your loyalty/covenant love?]. You ·protect [provide refuge for] people in the shadow of your wings. ⁸ They ·eat [feast on; are filled with] ·the rich food [^L from the fat/abundance] in your house, and you let them drink from your river of ·pleasure [delights].

Psalms 103:2-5

² ·My whole being [^T O my soul], ·praise [bless] the LORD and do not forget all his ·kindnesses [gifts; benefits]. ³ He forgives all ·my [or your] ·sins [iniquity] and heals all ·my [or your] ·diseases [ills]. ⁴ He ·saves [redeems] ·my [or your] life from the ·grave [^L pit] and ·loads [or crowns] ·me [or you] with ·love [loyalty] and ·mercy [compassion]. ⁵ He satisfies ·me [or you] with good things [^L as long as you live; or according to your desires] and ·makes me young again [^L renews your youth], like the eagle [Is. 40:31].

Ephesians 2:4-8

⁴ But ·God’s mercy is great [^L God is rich in mercy], and he loved us very much. ⁵ Though we were spiritually dead because of ·the things we did against God [our transgressions], he ·gave us new life [brought us to life] with Christ. You have been saved by God’s grace. ⁶ And he raised us up with Christ and gave us a seat with him in the ·heavens [heavenly places/realms]. He did this for those in Christ Jesus ⁷ so that ·for all future time [^L in the ages to come] he could show the ·very great

[exceeding; overwhelming] riches of his grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ ·I mean that [or For; Because] you have been saved by grace through ·believing [faith]. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God.

Section 1: (1) 1 John 4:8

⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

(2) Psalms 145:1, 9

¹ I ·praise your greatness [exalt you], my God the King; I will ·praise [bless] ·you [^L your name] forever and ever.

¹⁹ The LORD is good to everyone; he is ·merciful [compassionate] to all he has made [[86:15](#); [103:8](#); [Ex. 34:6-7](#); [Neh. 9:17, 31](#); [Joel 2:13](#); [Jon. 4:2](#)].

(3) Deuteronomy 7:7-9, 13

⁷ The LORD did not ·care [have affection] for you and choose you because there were many of you—you are the smallest nation of all. ⁸ But the LORD chose you because he loved you, and he kept his promise to your ·ancestors [fathers; [Gen. 12:1-3](#); [15:17-20](#)]. So he brought you out of Egypt by his ·great power [^L strong hand] and ·freed [ransomed; redeemed] you from the ·land of slavery [^L house of bondage], from the ·power [^L hand] of the king of Egypt. ⁹ So know that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God. He will ·keep [guard] his ·agreement [covenant; treaty] of love for a thousand ·lifetimes for people [generations] who love him and obey his commands. ¹³ He will love and bless you. He will ·make the number of your people grow; he will bless you with children [^L multiply the fruit of your womb]. ·He will bless your fields with good crops and will give you grain, new wine, and oil [^L ...and the fruit of your land, your grain, new wine, and oil]. ·He will bless your herds with calves and your flocks with lambs

[^L...the increase of your cattle and the issue of your flocks] in the land he promised your ·ancestors [fathers] he would give you.

(4) Isaiah 43:1

¹ Now this is what the LORD says. He created you, ·people of Jacob [^L Jacob]; he formed you, ·people of Israel [^L Israel]. He says, "Don't be afraid, because I have ·saved [ransomed; redeemed] you. I have called you by name, and you are mine.

Section 2: (5) Psalms 34:18

¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted, and he saves those whose spirits have been crushed.

(6) Ruth 1:3-5, 8, 9, 14, 16, 19

³ Then Naomi's husband, Elimelech, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ These sons married women from Moab. One was named Orpah, and the other was named Ruth. Naomi and her sons had lived in Moab about ten years ⁵ when Mahlon and Kilion also died. So Naomi was left alone without her husband or her two ·sons [offspring; [4:16](#)]. ⁸ But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back home, each of you to your own mother's house. May the LORD ·be as kind [show mercy/lovingkindness] to you as you have been to me and ·my sons who are now dead [^L with the dead].

⁹ May the LORD give you ·another happy home and a new [^L to find rest/security, each in the house of her] husband." When Naomi kissed the women good-bye, they ·began to cry out loud [^L raised their voices and wept]. ¹⁴ The women ·cried together out loud [^L raised their voices and wept] again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law Naomi good-bye, but Ruth ·held on [clung] to her tightly. ¹⁶ But Ruth said, "Don't ·beg [urge] me to ·leave [abandon] you or to ·stop following [^L turn back from] you. Where you go, I will go. Where

you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁹ So Naomi and Ruth went on until they came to the town of Bethlehem. When they entered Bethlehem, ·all the people became very excited [the whole town was abuzz/stirred up]. The women of the town said, "Is this really Naomi?"

(7) Ruth 2:2, 3, 5-8, 11, 12

² One day Ruth, the Moabite, said to Naomi, "[^L Please] Let me go to the fields. Maybe someone ·will be kind enough to [^L in whose eyes/sight I find grace/favor will] let me ·gather the grain he leaves behind [^L glean among the sheaves/bundles; [Deut. 24:21-22](#)]." Naomi said, "Go, my daughter." ³ So Ruth went ·to the fields and gathered the grain that the workers cutting the grain had left behind [^L and gleaned in the field behind the reapers/harvesters]. It just so happened that the field belonged to Boaz, from Elimelech's ·family [clan; ^C a chance event from Ruth's perspective, but part of God's plan]. ⁵ Then Boaz asked his ·servant [young man; foreman] in charge of the ·workers [reapers; harvesters], "·Whose girl is that [To whom does that young woman belong; ^C referring, in this patriarchal culture, to her husband or father]?" ⁶ The ·servant [young man; foreman] answered, "She is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the ·country [land] of Moab. ⁷ She said, 'Please let me follow the ·workers cutting grain [reapers; harvesters] and ·gather what they leave behind [^L glean among the sheaves/bundles].' She came and has remained here, from morning until just now. She ·has stopped only a few moments [*or* just now stopped for a moment] to rest in the ·shelter [hut; house]." ⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "·Listen [^L Have you not heard...?], my daughter. Don't go to ·gather grain for yourself [glean] in another field. Don't even leave this field at all, but ·continue

following closely behind [stay close to; cling to] my ·women workers [servant girls; young women]. ¹¹ Boaz answered her, “I ·know [have been fully informed] about all ·the help you have given [that you have done for] your mother-in-law after your husband died. You left your father and mother and your ·own country [native land] to come to a ·nation [people] where you did not know anyone. ¹² May the LORD reward you for all you have done. May your wages be paid in full by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for shelter [like a protective mother bird].”

Section 3: (8) Psalms 86:14, 15

¹⁴ God, ·proud [arrogant] people ·are attacking [rise up against] me; a ·gang [assembly] of ·cruel [violent] people ·is trying to kill me [seek my life]. They do not ·respect you [set you before them]. ¹⁵ But, Lord, you are a God who shows ·mercy [compassion] and is ·kind [merciful; compassionate]. You ·don’t become angry quickly [are patient/longsuffering]. You have great ·love [loyalty] and ·faithfulness [truth; Ex. 34:6–7].

(9) Matthew 4:23

²³ Jesus went everywhere in Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, preaching the ·Good News about [Gospel of] the kingdom, and healing ·all [or every kind of] the people’s diseases and sicknesses.

(10) Matthew 5:1, 2, 7, 43-45

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on ·a hill [the mountain] and sat down. His ·followers [disciples] ·came to [gathered around] him, ² and he began to teach them, saying: ⁷ They are blessed who show mercy to others, for ·God will show mercy to them [they will be shown mercy; ^c the passive verb implies God as subject]. ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy [Lev. 19:18].’ ⁴⁴ But I say

to you, love your enemies. Pray for those who ·hurt [persecute] you.^[a] ⁴⁵ ·If you do this, [...so that] you will be ·true children [children; or sons] of your Father in heaven. [For] He causes ·the [his] sun to rise on evil people and on good people, and he sends rain ·to those who do right and to those who do wrong [on the just/righteous and the unjust/unrighteous].

Section 4: (11) Matthew 14:14

¹⁴ When he ·arrived [landed; came ashore], he saw a great crowd waiting. He ·felt sorry [had compassion] for them and healed those who were sick.

(12) Mark 1:40-42

⁴⁰ A man with ·a skin disease [^T leprosy; ^c the term does not refer to modern leprosy (Hansen’s disease), but to various skin disorders; Lev. 14] came to Jesus. He fell to his knees and begged Jesus, “You can ·heal me [make me clean; ^c leprosy rendered a person ceremonially defiled (“unclean”), and so unable to participate in Israel’s religious life] if you ·will [are willing; want to].”

⁴¹ Jesus felt ·sorry^[a] [compassion] for the man, so he reached out his hand and touched him and said, “I ·will [am willing; want to]. Be ·healed [cleansed]!”

⁴² Immediately the ·disease [^T leprosy] left the man, and he was ·healed [cleansed].

(13) John 4:46-53

⁴⁶ Jesus went again to visit Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine [2:1–11]. One of the king’s important officers lived in the city of Capernaum, and his son was sick. ⁴⁷ When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Jesus and ·begged [urged; asked] him to come to Capernaum and heal his son, because his son was almost dead. ⁴⁸ Jesus said to him, “·You people must see signs and miracles before you will believe in me [Unless you see signs

and wonders you will not believe; [2:23–25](#); [6:26](#)]."

⁴⁹The [royal] officer said, "Sir, ·come [^Lcome down] before my child dies." ⁵⁰Jesus ·answered [said to him], "Go. Your son will live." The man believed what Jesus told him [^Che did not need "signs" and miracles] and went home. ⁵¹On the way the man's ·servants [slaves; bond-servants] came and met him and told him, "Your son is alive." ⁵²[^LSo/Then] The man asked, "What ·time [hour] did my son begin to get well?" They answered, "Yesterday at ·one o'clock [^Lthe seventh hour; ^Chours were counted from dawn, about 6 AM] the fever left him." ⁵³[^LSo/Then] The father knew that ·one o'clock was the exact time that [^Lin that hour] Jesus had said, "Your son will live." So the man and all ·the people who lived in his house [his household] believed in Jesus.

Section 5: (14) 1 John 4:7

⁷·Dear friends [^LBeloved], ·we should [let us] love each other, because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has ·become God's child [^Lbeen begotten/fathered by God] and knows God.

(15) Matthew 18:21, 22

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, when my ·fellow believer [^Lbrother (or sister)] sins against me, how many times ·must [should] I forgive him? Should I forgive him as many as seven times?" ²²Jesus answered, "I tell you, you must forgive him not just seven times, but ·seventy times seven times [*or* seventy-seven times; ^Cthe Greek can mean either 490 or 77; the point is unlimited forgiveness]!"

(16) Luke 6:37

³⁷"Don't judge others, and you will not be judged. Don't ·accuse others of being guilty [condemn others], and you will not be ·accused of being guilty

[condemned]. ·Forgive [Pardon; Release], and you will be ·forgiven [pardoned; released].

(17) Romans 12:14, 18

¹⁴·Wish good for [Bless] those who ·harm [persecute] you; ·wish them well [bless] and do not curse them.

¹⁸·Do your best to [^LIf possible, from your part,] live in peace with everyone.

Section 6: (18) 1 John 3:1, 11, 18

⁷·The Father has loved us so much [^LSee what sort of love the Father has given us...!] that we are called children of God. ·And we really are his children [^LAnd we are!]. The reason ·the people in the world do [^Lthe world does] not know us is that they have not known him. ¹¹This is the ·teaching [message] you have heard from the beginning: We must love each other [^Cas Jesus himself taught: [John 13:34–35](#); [15:12](#)]. ¹⁸My children [[2:1](#)], we should love people not only ·with words and talk [^Lin word and tongue], but ·by our actions and true caring [*or* by showing true love through our actions; ^Lin deed and truth].

(19) 1 John 4:12

¹²No one has ever seen God [^CGod the Father; [John 1:18](#)], but if we love each other, God ·lives [remains; abides] ·in [*or* among] us, and his love ·is made perfect [is made complete; comes to full expression] in us.

(20) 1 Peter 3:8, 9

⁸Finally, all of you should ·be in agreement [be like-minded; live in harmony], ·understanding each other [sympathetic], ·loving each other as family [^Lshowing brotherly love], being ·kind [tender; compassionate] and humble. ⁹Do not ·do wrong to repay a wrong, and do not insult to repay an insult [^Lrepay evil for evil or insult for insult]. But repay with a blessing, because you

yourselves were called [^c by God] to do this so that you might receive [^Linherit] a blessing [Luke 6:27–28].

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