

**Introduction**

Below are brief introductions to our lessons this week for each adult class.

**Adult Topical Study Class (Bible Studies for Life – How To Love Your Neighbor)**

**Teachers:** Craig Pleasants & Bob Kemble.

**Lesson Title:** Honor Your Neighbor

**Focal Scripture:** Romans 12:9-21

**Theme:** Love is seen in how we honor others.

**Overview:** This week we continue our series of lessons focused on love for our neighbor with a lesson drawn from Romans 12 where Paul gives us instructions on our relationships with others. The primary theme of these instructions is real or sincere love, humbly putting others first without hypocrisy or pretense. Such love is the means by which we honor others and serve as effective ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20). While showing such love to those who return our love may be easy, this week's passage also contains instructions for loving our enemies; a much harder thing to do and generally requiring God's help. Join us this week as we discuss ways we can honor others and love our community for Christ.

*<sup>18</sup>My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.*

**1 John 3:18**

*<sup>1</sup>I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, <sup>2</sup>With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **Ephesians 4:1-2***

*<sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. **John 13:34-35***

**Adult Bible Book Study Class (Xexplore the Bible – 1, 2 Kings)**

**Teachers:** Janice Willis & Thomas Littleton.

**Lesson Title:** God Judges

**Focal Scripture:** 2 Kings 17:7-20

**Theme:** God holds all people accountable for their sin.

**Overview:** Chapters 13 through 16 record the reigns of numerous kings of Israel and Judah. A few of them in Judah are good kings; but the general trend is for the kings, especially in the northern kingdom of Israel, to do “*evil in the sight of the Lord*” (Jehoahaz in Israel 13:2, Joash in Israel 13:11, Jeroboam in Israel 14:24, Zachariah in Israel 15:9, Menahem in Israel 15:18, Pekahiah in Israel 15:24, Pekah in Israel 15:28, Hoshea in Israel 17:2). The continuous sins of Israel's people finally caught up with them, as God allowed Assyria to defeat and carry them into captivity.

*<sup>5</sup>Then the king of Assyria came up throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria, and besieged it three years. <sup>6</sup>In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and*

*carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes. 2 Kings 17:5-6*

In our lesson for this week, we will examine the subsequent verses in chapter 17 which elaborate on the reasons for God's harsh judgement upon them. Israel forgot the importance and benefits of obeying God's Word, and ignored the prophets God sent to call them to repentance. God's patience and mercy are beyond our understanding, but the promises and warnings God has given us in the Bible and His righteous judgement are certain.

### **Closing Thoughts**

This week we celebrate Homecoming in our church and will have a fellowship meal following the 11:00 am worship service. Whether you are a recent or long-time member, or just a friend of our church family Homecoming is a special time of renewing our relationships with each other and praising God for his blessings. It's a time of reflection about those who have worked in our church and have now gone home to be with our Lord. It's a time to worship God and set our hearts right with him. It's a time for feeling and showing love for one another and our God. It's a foretaste of a far greater Homecoming in Heaven.

*Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds Is like to that above.*

John Fawcett, The Baptist Hymnal #387

This week please pray for our Homecoming service, that God's power will be evident in personal spiritual renewal and collective recommitment to His service. Pray that this celebration will be just the beginning of great things to come!

Please make a special effort to attend and pass the word along to other family members and friends. Hope to see you Sunday at church!

<sup>24</sup>*My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. 1 Corinthians 16:24*

---

Please prayerfully consider meeting with us this week for 10:00 am Sunday School as we fellowship, encourage, and study God's word together.