

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 15:12-17**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (12-25-94).
- C. There are many beautiful songs and Scriptures that describe Jesus as our friend (Prov. 18:24; Rom. 5:8; Col. 1:20).
- D. To appreciate His blessings and our obligations is to know how Jesus is our friend.
 - 1. He is our friend because of what He does for us.
 - 2. He is our friend because of His natural attributes.
 - 3. He is a friend to us and that obligates us to be His friend.

I. HE IS OUR FRIEND BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DOES FOR US.

- A. He died to save us from our sins (Lk. 19:10; Mt. 26:28).
 - 1. John introduced Jesus to his disciples as a lamb that takes away sin (Jn. 1:29).
 - 2. Jesus died on the cross that we might live eternally in heaven.
- B. He will guide our lives.
 - 1. When we become Xians, the Lord does not forsake us (Mt. 28:20).
 - 2. He constantly encourages/strengthens us if we heed His word, and pray (Col. 3:1-2).
- C. He will walk with us in trials and misfortunes.
 - 1. Becoming a Xian does not mean that we won't have problems or difficulties. In fact, it means that the world WILL persecute us (2Tim. 3:12).
 - 2. But we can be confident that He will be w/us in the hour of trial; for He cares for us (1Pet. 5:7).
- D. He will give us victory over death.
 - 1. He is able to always make us victorious if we follow Him. Not even death can conquer us (Rom. 8:38-39).
 - 2. Jesus promised that the resurrection would be universal, but only the righteous would be blessed (Jn. 5:28-29).
- F. He will take the faithful home to glory.
 - 1. When X comes again, judgment begins in the house of God (Mt. 13:41-42; 1Pet. 4:17-19).
 - 2. We shall meet Him in the air (1Th. 4:13-18).

II. HE IS OUR FRIEND BECAUSE OF HIS NATURAL ATTRIBUTES.

- A. He is a man of worship and devotion to the Father (Mk. 1:35; Jn. 4:34). Even in the shadow of the cross, He prayed for the Father's will (Mt. 26:39).
- B. He was humble and obedient.
 - 1. In heaven He was God and equal with the Father, but He emptied Himself of that glory for our benefit and became obedient to even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-9).
 - 2. He was an obedient son (Heb. 5:8-9).
 - 3. From the age of 12, He "was about His Father's business" (Lk. 2:49).
- C. He was a loyal friend (Jn. 15:13). But His love was so great that He suffered and died for His enemies (Rom. 5:8-9).
- D. He had compassion for others (Mt. 14:14; 9:35-36).

III. HE IS A FRIEND TO US AND THAT OBLIGATES US TO BE HIS FRIEND.

- A. Friendship is a two-way street.
 - 1. Some people do not feel very close to Jesus because they are closer to the world (Jas. 4:4).
 - 2. They do not have time for Him because they love other things more.
 - 3. But what He has done for us should make us want to be a friend.

- B. We should love and appreciate His suffering on the cross for us (Gal. 1:4).
Some are ashamed of the cross, but we should love it (Gal. 5:11).
- C. Friends of Jesus will love His commands (Jn. 15:14).
- D. We should love His church which was purchased w/His blood (Ac. 20:28).
- E. Friends of Jesus will love His coming to take them to heaven.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. "What a Friend We Have In Jesus." Good friends:
 - 1. Come to our aid (Psa. 124:8), and Jesus has done that.
 - 2. Are always ready to help (Eph. 3:20) and Jesus is ready to do it.
 - 3. Sometimes correct us (2Tim. 3:16) and it is for our own good.
 - 4. Make us happy (Psa. 144:15) and Jesus wants our joy complete (Jn. 15:11).
 - 5. Always want the best for us (Phil. 4:11) and Jesus certainly wants that.
 - 6. Allow us to help them (2Cor. 6:1) and we do that by keeping His commandments.
- B. Are you ready to be a friend of Jesus? He is already your friend.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.