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# **Motives: The Love of Christ**

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**Series: The Beatitudes**

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Why are you here? That seems very ungrateful and please don't be offended, but why are you here? If I were to walk down the aisle with a microphone, I suppose I could walk up to some of you and your answer would be, "I am here because my spouse intimidated me, so I came." Another may answer, "I'm here because I have always gone to church. I went to church as a youngster and a teen and now that I'm older, I still go to church." Someone else might say, "I come every Sunday because I love the fellowship, doughnuts, coffee, and friends." Someone else may say, "I come because I need spiritual encouragement." You may be wondering how I know what your answer may have been. You may answer that none of these answers were yours. The important thing is that you are here, and it really does matter to God why you came. That is the subject of this lesson.

We have been dealing with what it means to be pure in heart. It has been a rather painful subject. For those who are becoming progressively pure, the Scripture says, they are becoming progressively able to see God. As they become progressively able to see God, the Scripture says they are becoming progressively like God.

## I- EVIDENCE OF A PURE HEART- ABSENCE OF HYPOCRISY

The first evidence of a pure heart is the absence of hypocrisy and the presence of a transparent spirit. We won't spend too much time reviewing, but in the last lesson, we discussed hypocrisy. There are two basic reasons why we, as Christians, become hypocrites.

1) The first is that we have a dual nature and progressive warfare goes on inside of us. It is easier to clean up our act than it is to clean up our hearts. The world and the church get impressed, therefore, we get impressed and think God is impressed. We then begin to ignore the real issue which is the heart.

2) The second reason we become hypocrites is that we want acceptance. In this world we seldom get this acceptance, because there is always someone who is prettier, more handsome or has

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more than we do. We begin to think that there is no way we can ever measure up to their standards. When we become Christians, the ground at the foot of the cross is level. We then realize we can become more spiritual than they are. Until we become this new person we want to be, we begin to pretend and the longer we pretend we fail to realize that we haven't become.

We found in the last lesson that there were seven results of hypocrisy:

1- The loss of conscience. It gets seared like a hot iron.

2- The loss of witness. It is like leaven. Jesus said, "You Pharisees are hypocrites. You are like leaven that swells up until it pops out all over and everybody knows."

3- The loss of joy was the third.

4- The loss of leadership.

5- The loss of teachability.

6- The loss of peace.

7- The loss of perspective.

We closed the last lesson with some remedies for hypocrites. (Maybe you know one, and you can share these notes with them.) First of all, you need to deal with the issue honestly.

1- God is interested in the heart. Out of the heart proceeds all of these things that don't please God.

2- Learn to pray for a transparent spirit. Ask God to get rid of the hypocrisy in your life.

3- Learn to take a bath in the Word of God. Learn to let it dominate, permeate and control your life. When you get up in the morning, you ought to be thinking about the Word of God. When you take a shower, you ought to sing praises and meditate on the Word of God. When you drive to work, you ought to listen to or meditate on the Word of God. The Word of God is the only thing that can change your life, cleanse your heart and transform you into the image of Jesus Christ in every increasing splendor. Bathe yourself in the Word of God. Saturate yourself in the Word of God. Dip yourself in the Word of God. Let it be like frontlets between your eyes and on the doorposts of your house. Let the Word of God permeate your life. It will deal with the hypocrisy that you don't think you can deal with.

## II- EVIDENCE OF A PURE HEART- PURE MOTIVES

In this lesson, we come to the second evidence of a pure heart and that is pure motives. That is why I asked the question, “Why did you come?” While hypocrisy and motivation are closely related, they are really not the same. Hypocrisy deals, for the most part, with how we deceive others. Motivation deals with how we deceive ourselves. Some of you may not know why you came this morning. Some of you haven’t thought about it for twenty years. Here are some more questions you might ask yourself.

1- If you are one who gives money on a regular basis to a Christian organization, why do you give? You may say, “I give because I love the Lord.” O.K. What if it wasn’t tax deductible, would that affect your love?

2- Do you ever give out of guilt?

3- Do you ever give and expect a trade-off with God? “I will keep on giving my 10%, but Lord, let me tell you that You better take care of me.”

4- Maybe you are one of those who pray regularly. Maybe you are one of those who prays occasionally. Do you ever ask yourself why you pray when you pray? If you don’t get what you asked for, does your prayer life change any?

5- Maybe you are one who memorizes Scripture. Why? Because you want to grow? Because you have seen other people doing it? Because someone you admire told you to? Or is it a little of all the above. Why?

6- Maybe you are a tape-toter. You may have a tape with you everywhere you go, and you plug it into a little machine everywhere you go. This can be a good thing. But, why do you do it?

God is excited about all of these things, and He wants us to keep doing them. But, His major question is, “Why?” That is a question I will ask you this morning. I want to quote some paraphrases from the Living Bible.

...Cross-examine me, O Lord, and see that this is so; test my motives and affections too. (Psalm 26:2 TLB)

Would you like to memorize that? Don’t ask me why, just do it. Now the idea is to share that verse back with the Lord this week. “Cross examine me, O Lord...test my motives and my affections.”

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We can justify our every deed, but God looks at our motives.  
(Proverbs 21:2 TLB)

In the last lesson, we talked about Jeremiah 17:9,

The heart is the most deceitful thing there is, and desperately wicked. No one can really know how bad it is!  
(Jeremiah 17:9 TLB)

Verse 10 goes on to say,

Only the Lord knows! He searches all hearts and examines deepest motives so He can give to each person his right reward, according to his deeds - how he has lived.  
(Jeremiah 17:10 TLB)

It is not based on what we do. It is based on the motives of our hearts.

In Galatians 4, the Holy Spirit had been talking about false teachers. Verse 18 says that these people are teaching the truth, but their goal is to steal the believers away from another congregation. They were wanting Paul's congregation to go to their church. Paul said that their teaching was right, but their motives were wrong.

Proverbs 20:27 says that a man's conscience is the Lord's searchlight. It exposes his hidden motives. That is also why Psalms 51 says,

Create in me a new, clean heart, O Lord, with clean thoughts and right desires. In other words, change my motives.  
(Psalm 51:10 TLB)

It does matter to God why you came. It really does. Level 1 is He is pleased that you are here, because Scripture tells us to,

...not giving up meeting together... (Hebrews 10:25 NIV)

and,

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor. (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

God expects you to be here, and He is pleased that you came no matter the motive. But progressively, excitedly your reasons for coming should change as you mature. When you were a child, you spoke as a child and understood as a child and thought as a child. But supposedly, when you became an adult, you put away childish things.

A child comes to Sunday School because a mother says to. It is called self-preservation. He may come because his teacher

promised him candy. That is called self-gratification. He may come because of the attention he gets from the other children. That is called self-exaltation. These are not bad reasons for a six-year-old to come to church. But, you are not six. As you grow, as you give, and as you pray, there ought to be new and exciting reasons. You should come because you want to, and because you are in love.

The heart is always fighting spiritual heart disease. Our goal is the gradual, virtual obliteration of a cancer that takes place in the heart. Satan affects your heart. He whispers in your ear. Scripture tells us that Satan put it in the heart of Judas to betray Christ. Satan talked to Judas. Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness to do good things for the wrong reasons. That is what he tempts you to do today. He is continually tampering with your motives. Perhaps he can't keep you from coming to church, from praying, from giving, from singing. Satan's next move and maybe his best move is to let you come for the wrong reasons, or to have you pray for the wrong motives.

There are three basic drives I mentioned above in a humorous way, that permeate the lives of Christians when Satan is controlling their motivations. There is self-preservation, self-gratification and self-exaltation. When we look at Jesus in the wilderness, we see that Satan began to tempt Jesus with self-preservation. He said, "Jesus, you must be hungry by now as you haven't eaten for forty days. Do you want to stay alive? How about a little miracle. Take these stones and turn them into bread." The motive was to save His skin. Jesus said that the problem was that man does not live by bread alone.

Satan then approached Jesus with self-gratification. Satan said, "Jesus, do you want a thrill? You can be the first Evil Knevil. Come to the top of this temple and jump off then let the angels save you. God will do that for you." The motive was to satisfy His own desires by a thrilling kick. Jesus replied to Satan that it was written not to tempt God, because it was out of His will.

So Satan approached his third methodology which is self-exaltation. He told Jesus that all of the world could be His. "You can be Number 2 in charge if you will make me Number 1", Satan told Him. His motive was to toot his own horn. Jesus said, "That is the problem, there is only one Number 1 and that is My Father."

Satan has always had three basic drives to fool the heart of

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man. John put it this way,

...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life...  
(I John 2:16)

We may also say it as self-preservation, self-gratification and self-exaltation. When Eve was approached in the garden of Eden, Satan used these tactics. She saw that the fruit was good to eat, pleasant to see, and it would make her wise. We see self-preservation, self-gratification and self-exaltation. Everything we do has as its roots either one motivation that pleases the heart of God, or one of these three motivations that Satan uses in our lives to deceive us. He is very clever.

There are three things true about why we do what we do:

1- Until we get to heaven, our motives will never be 100% pure, no matter what anyone tells us. The reason this is true is that we are pouring distilled water through a dirty strainer, and it will never come out perfectly clean. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, and we can't totally figure it out.

2- Between now and then, it is the will of God and the desire of the heart of God to see us progressively change until our motivations become more and more in perfect harmony with His. God says the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Only He knows the heart and motives of man and wants them to change.

3- Don't be surprised if your motives change in midstream. The children of Israel followed the Lord in glorious victory, but when they got into the middle of victory, they couldn't handle the prosperity, and their motives changed. On other occasions, they were disobedient and rebellious. God blessed them and tested them, and their motives would change depending on the blessing or the testing. Your motives can change in midstream. We may have started coming to church with all of the wrong motivations, but once we were here, the Spirit of God brought us under conviction, and our hearts may have been changed. Motivations can change.

Those are the issues as we see: the basics, the background and the battlefield of the emotions of the heart. But issues aren't as important as the answers. So what motive does please God? What motive does satisfy God? What motive does glorify

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God? Ultimately, I believe there is only one. This is found in II Corinthians 5:14. Starting with verse 9, Paul answers the question, “Why do we do what we do?”

Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. (II Corinthians 5:9 NKJV)

We then continue in verse 14,

For the love of Christ compels (constrains) us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; (II Corinthians 5:14 NKJV)

The word “constrains” is interesting. In Job 32 says,

The Spirit within me constrains me. (Job 32:18)

This means you can't help yourself. Mark 6:45 says that Jesus constrained them to get into the boat. In Luke 24:29 it says they constrained Jesus to stay. Constrain means three things - to control, to urge and to compel. The Amplified Bible says that the love of Christ urges, controls and compels us. This love disciplines, excites and drives us. If you don't mind borrowing a very popular automotive slogan, “We Are Driven” by love. That is the fuel that makes the engine run. That is the motive that pleases the heart of God. The inner motivation always to please Him is because we are driven by His love.

Yet another way to put it is that we are driven to please Him because we love Him so. You say, “What is the difference between His love for us and our love for Him?” None. It is Christ's love in you that gives you the capacity to love the Father. You can't love the Father except that Jesus Christ be in you. I John 4 says

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

(I John 4:9,10 NKJV)

In this act we see what real love is. It is not our love for God, but His love for us.

We love him, because he first loved us. (I John 4:19)

So you see, our love for Him comes as a result of His loving us first. That is why a woman was made to return love rather than initiate it in a marriage relationship. As a wife, you can respond to your husband's love because he is the initiator. It is his love that gives you the power to return love. If you are a wife

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and you say, “But, my husband doesn’t love me,” or if you are an unmarried woman and say, “I don’t have a husband”, you both have a supernatural thing in your favor. You both still have the love of God. You can return the love of God to your husband. If you are not married, you have the most perfect, beautiful relationship in terms of emotional love, because you have perfect love unhindered and unrestrained that you can return back to a perfect lover.

The picture is that the perfect love of God motivates a heart to perfectly return that love to the source of that love. That is why God wants you to come to church, because you love Him so much. That is why God wants you to give, because you are in love with Him. That is why God wants you to witness, because you are in love with Him.

I will give you an illustration. I don’t want to embarrass my wife, but she is sitting far away where I can’t see her. When we had the tire store, it closed at 5:00 P.M. every day. At this time, the traffic was the worst on the freeways. Usually there were 8 to 10 things that should be done. I would look at the things that needed to be done, and I would think about the traffic, then I would think about home. I have to be honest, I love my wife and I wanted to get home to her. So what I found myself doing was leaving everything there and fighting that traffic in order to get home to her. I was always in a hurry to get home. Many times when I would get home, I would not do anything to express my love to her. I would grumble, kick my shoes off and wonder when supper was coming. But inside, I was driven, because I wanted to see her, touch her and be with her, because I love her. When I know she is not at home, I am not nearly as driven to go home. If she goes someplace for the evening, I don’t know what to do with myself. The whole idea is that I want to be with her. Love is the divine motivation.

The same thing is true when we think about why we come to church or why we do this, or that. If my children were about to receive an award somewhere, and I was invited to come, do you suppose I would be motivated to go, or would I have to be convinced? If someone I love is going to get some praise, I want to be there. That is why we go to church. Someone you love is going to get some praise. His name is Jesus.

When you are in church and are asked to sing “Amazing

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Grace”, do you sing with an unenthusiastic, dull tone? God is not impressed with how good your voice may or may not be. He is impressed with how much love you have in your heart for Him. Can you remember when you were younger, and you were courting your wife and you sang a love song to her? You didn’t sing to her the way you sing unenthusiastically in church sometimes, did you? There were tears in your eyes because she was the object of your affection. You sang with everything you had. You may have been off-key, but she didn’t care. I don’t sing to my wife, because I love her too much. That is one of the blessings she can count. But when you go to church and sing the hymns, remember that they are love songs. That is your reason for singing. It is not because you need to get the songs over with, so you can hear the sermon, and then can go home to eat. You need to sing because you are in love with somebody and you are singing about Him.

Someone may lead the congregation in prayer. You bow your head as he says, “Let us pray.” You may look to your wife and say, “Johnny is coloring on Bobby’s sleeve. Stop him.” Or you may think, “Good grief, Mary got a new pair of shoes. I bet she went to that sale last week.” You close your eyes and all of sudden the leader says, “Amen” and you say, “Amen.” Let me tell you that he was talking to your lover, and you were distracted. You weren’t even listening. The motive is love.

Think of a teenager on the telephone talking to someone they love. There is an invisible wall around them. They may be lying on the floor or standing on their head. They act as if there is an invisible wall around them. You can step on them. You can step over them. You can yell in their ear. You can drop food in their face. A dog can come up and lick or even bite them. Nothing phases them. Do you know why? They are in another world. They are in a world of love.

Next time you go to church consider this, when the person gets up to lead the congregation in prayer, consider being like those teenagers in love on the phone. He is talking to the lover of your soul and you are in on the conversation. You have an opportunity to give when the offering plate goes along. Once again, you can talk about motives. You may reach in your pocket and pull out 7 nickels. You place one in the plate. You may look in your wallet and find that you have \$7.00. You put in \$1.00. When someone you love comes along and they ask to borrow some money, you don’t say, “I’ve only got 7 nickels, and I’ll let you have one.” You

dump the whole amount in their hands and wish you had more to give. That is love.

God is not concerned with how much or how little you give. God's law is not satisfied by giving a certain amount. Do you know what satisfies God? When you give all you want to. The key is that when you are really in love with Him, you want to give all you have.

What about your witness? Do you witness because you feel it is your duty? How many grandmothers are here? If you went up to one, would you have to plead and beg and ask, "Is it possible to give me one minute of your time to tell me of your new grandchild?" They will say, "No, I don't have time." No, they will tell you every little detail. When you tell someone else about someone you love, it is hard to stop. I just defined witnessing. It is telling someone about the Someone you love. Witnessing is love.

So we get to church and we open the Word. We say, "Here we go again. That is the same book the preacher was in last week. I bet he is going to do a review, too." We then hope it will be a short one. Maybe we get up in the morning and say, "Oh, I've got to read the Word today." It's good to read the Word. We may read through the Bible in four years. We read it but all the while our minds are in the car driving to work. We then check it off on our list - I read my Bible today. We are so proud.

Some of us treat the Word of God like it is an assignment in school. We may have had to memorize Shakespeare and have respected him, but we didn't fall in love with Shakespeare because he is dead. Our Lord is alive, however, and His Book is alive. It is a love letter written directly to us. The motivation for reading it is love.

Can't you remember when you fell in love. The love of your life may have lived in another town. You met the postman everyday. You couldn't wait for a letter. When you received a letter, you didn't file it away to read another day. You ripped it open and read every word. You read every word in between every word. You imagined about what wasn't said.

That is what Jesus is after. He turned to Peter and said, "Lovest Thou Me?" Peter said, "Lord, you know I love You." Jesus said, "Feed My sheep." Jesus turned to Peter again and said, "Peter, do you really love Me?" Peter replied, "Lord, You know how much I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of My lambs." Jesus asked once

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more, “Peter, do you really love Me?” Peter said, “Lord, I’m getting tired of You asking Me. Why do You care so much?” Jesus said, “I want you to feed My sheep and have a ministry, but listen, here is the motive for your ministry, do you love Me?” This is where it is all at. “Now,” Jesus said, “feed My sheep.”

This is what pure motives are. It is being filled with the pure love of God that He has for you. You then overflow with love for Him, and it constrains you, it directs you, it urges you, it compels you and controls everything you say and do. It is called a Spirit-filled life. Guess what? You can’t do it. You can’t strain, twist and conjure up that kind of love. You need to just relax, receive it and return it. The love of God. Your job is to get out of God’s way and become available. God’s job is to love you and to fill you and to lead you so that you can return His love. It is all said in Romans 5,

...for we know how dearly God loves us, and we feel this warm love everywhere within us because God has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.

(Romans 5:5 TLB)

This is where it comes from. He did it, and He does it. All we have to do is become available.

How do we become available? We have 3 points for this lesson.

1- Ask God for the strength to obey the things you already know to do. Here is where the rub comes in. You go to church. You give, serve, and sing. You go ahead and pray, because God told you to. All the while, you release yourself and lose yourself, so that He can give you that love and pour through you that love that will make it real.

Those who do what Christ tells them to will learn how to love Him more and more.

(I John 2:5 TLB)

This is where it comes from.

Loving God means doing what He tells us to and really that isn’t hard at all.

(I John 5:3 TLB)

Do you know why it isn’t hard? When somebody you really love asks you to do something, it isn’t really hard, is it? If someone you don’t care for asks you to do something, you have a problem with it. But if someone you love comes right behind and asks you to carry the same load, it is as light as a feather.

2- All the while, test your motives through the Word. Paraphrased, it goes like this,

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And remember, it is a message to obey, not just listen to. So don't fool yourself.

For if a person just listens and doesn't obey, he is like a man looking at his face in the mirror;

as soon as he walks away, he can't see himself anymore and can't remember what he looks like.

But, if anyone keeps looking steadily into God's law for free men, he will not only remember it, but he will do what it says. God will greatly bless him in everything he does.

(James 1:23-25 TLB)

3- Enlarge your vision of God by worship. Worship. This is the most important of all. How many of you think you know how to worship? How many of you worship every day? I think we ought to have at least three times we worship - every day, every week, and every month. I think we ought to worship when the day begins. I think we ought to worship every week when the body comes together to worship. I think at least once a month, we ought to get apart with God and worship Him for who He is with nothing between us and Him. There are three main ways:

1) Study the attributes of God. Have you ever done that over a long period of time? Take a month to study each of the attributes of God. Forget about your needs, forget about your wants, forget about everything and concentrate on Him. If you ask me why I love my wife, I will tell you all of the attributes of her character. I will tell you about her beauty, her faithfulness, her tenderness, her holiness and many more. I may be at work sometimes thinking about these attributes of my wife. I will pick up the phone to call her and tell her how much I love her. Sometimes she can be in the backyard, and it is inconvenient for her to come to the phone, but it means a lot to me. Wrong motivation. But I can't help it. It is love you see. How long has it been since you have meditated on the attributes of God, and you have been carried away by what you realized about who God is and what He has done for you that you have cried out to Him, "Lord, I love You!" That is the motivation.

He is omnipotent. There is nothing He cannot do. He is omniscient. There is nothing He does not know. He is omnipresent. He is always everywhere all of the time. He is sovereign. There is nothing beyond His control. He is spiritual. He is unlimited and unhindered by human limitations. He is eternal. He is unhindered by time. He is self-existent. He is without need of any person

or thing to sustain Him. He is beyond comprehension. His ways are beyond the ability of finite man to comprehend. He is perfect love. He is perfect patience. His Word is immutable. He is perfect holiness. He is perfect justice. He is perfect truth. He is perfect order. He has total availability. This is who God is. Take each one of these attributes and bathe yourself in them for a month at a time. You will fall so in love with God that the love of God will motivate everything you say and do.

2) Do not only be available and fall in love, but is to just spend time praising Him. What it means to worship is very simple. It is a lower paying obeisance to a higher. Two things need to happen. There has to be one who is worthy. That is what “worth”ship means, one who is worthy. There has to be one who is unworthy. There has to be a meeting between these two for the purpose of glorifying the one who is worthy. When you meet together with the Lord in the morning for your quiet time or whatever you want to call it, don’t have it be a perfunctory study time. Don’t let it be a time to rattle off the things you need from God. Don’t say, “Dear Lord here is my grocery list for the day. Please do this. Please do that. Save me from this. Help my friend. Amen.” You will miss it. The first thing you should do is fall down on your knees and worship. He is God. He framed the universes. He knows every beat of your heart. He has arranged before the foundation of the world to meet every need you will ever have. He is God.

More than this, I would like to remind you of something I have mentioned before. It is vitally important for every Christian to get apart and spend an extended period of time alone with God, for the sake of getting his act together again. I have done a series of lessons entitled “Beginning Again”. The last lesson is “How to Begin Again to Fall in Love with Jesus”. This lesson touches on this very thing. Have you ever spent time away with God, all alone with just Him? It could be 2 hours. It could be 4 hours. It could be a whole day. If you would like to do this, there is a good outline in that lesson to guide you.

In order to do it, you need to take your Bible and a notebook and yourself to someplace where there is no one but you and God, and then just love Him. Make it like a honeymoon. Every Christian ought to have a honeymoon at least once a month with the lover of their soul. You can recapture that excitement, that glow, that love. You maintain it on a day-to-day basis, but occasionally you can get apart and renew it.

3) When your love begins to wane, go back to where it began. I have taught this before, but if you want your motives to be changed and transformed go back to Calvary. Most Christians don't spend much time contemplating Calvary. When was the last time you went back to the cross to worship? When was the last time in your quiet time that you simply read through the account of the crucifixion, and you inserted yourself in the scene? When you read that Jesus said, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" were you able to cry out in your heart, "It was for me, Lord, it was for me?" When He said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," were you able to be so personally involved that you were able to look up and say, "Thank you, Lord?" When He looked at the thief on the cross and said, "Today thou shalt be with Me in paradise," were you overwhelmed at love like that? You see, when you do that, you will be able to sing that song, "My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine. For Thee all the follies of sin I resign. My gracious Redeemer, My Savior art Thou, If ever I loved Thee, My Jesus 'tis now." Go back to Calvary.

Most of us attend church for a good reason, maybe for the right reason. But oh, the mixed motives that take place in our hearts. You and I must continue to do the things God tells us to do. But if you want to light up the heart of God, you must learn to let go and let the love of God rule in your life. Jesus is continually asking, "Child, lovest thou Me?" You cry out with joy, "Lord, I love You." When was the last time you said that? Can you unashamedly say, "Jesus, I love you!" We get so staid in our worship, don't we. Let's just stop a minute and say, "Jesus, I love you."

As you go through the day and your motives begin to get twisted and your life begins to get confused, stop and say, "Jesus, I love You. Help me to love You more." It will change your reason for reading the Bible. It will change your reason for coming to church. It will change the way you sing hymns. It will change your fellowship from dry sharing and meaningless chatter to a love feast for Jesus. You will find out what it means to go from one degree of glory to another. It means being transformed internally until every word you say and every thought you think and every act you do say, "Jesus, I love You." The love will swell until it reaches the point where you would rather die than break His heart. You would rather be with Him than anyplace else in the world. It is a progressing, consuming love that grows and grows

## Motives: The Love of Christ

and grows until that precious, soon coming day when the One who loves you so much will break through the bonds of time and draw you to Himself and take you to be with Him forever. Perfect love will have come full cycle. You will then be able to love Him as much as He loves you, from a pure heart for all eternity.

Note: Russell wrote each of these lessons in a manner that would enable him to clearly communicate them to his weekly class. The grammar or punctuation you encounter may not be technically perfect, but you will certainly “hear” his unique gift for making the message applicable to the common man in everyday situations.

It’s been said of him that he was really a writer who read his stuff. And that’s a very accurate statement!

May you be richly blessed as you “hear” as you read.

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