



August 30th – Hugh Barlett

Romans 13:8–10 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Bound together in the law of love

- **Connected in love**
- **Love personally sacrifices for others**
- **Love practically blesses others**

We are called to live responsible lives, so that we may care for one another. How has God blessed you so that you can bless others?

How is love more than just a sentiment or romantic feeling?

How does love actually fulfill the law?

Think about the 2nd half of the ten commandments:

- **Honor our parents: How does love honor authority?**
- **Do not murder: How does love promote & protect life?**
- **Do not commit adultery? How does loyalty in our love relationships express love in our families & friendships?**
- **Do not steal: how does being productive actually love our neighbor? How do we rob our neighbors?**
- **Do not lie: How is honesty essential to family, church, and society?**
- **Do not covet: How is contentment provide us a platform for loving others?**

How has Christ fulfilled these aspect of the law of love? Think of how Christ kept all the commandments and fulfilled the law in its' positive demands as well. For instance, Christ never murdered and he gave Life in words & works! Christ never lied, and His truth sets free. Share thoughts on this.



August 23rd – Hugh Barlett

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James 1:16–25 ¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. ²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Heavenly Grace changes our earthly lives

Word of Truth Imparts new life

Word implanted saves us from our old self

Word inspires us to obedience

**When we face hard times, it is easy to make us wonder if God is the author of temptations.
Have you ever felt deceived ? Wanted to blame God for bad times?**

How do you find gratitude for all the good things that God has done?

How does the word implanted enable us to say “no” to sin & “yes” to God?

How is God’s word a “law of liberty?” How has following God made you free?

How does obedience to God bless you?



Trust in Giving

Philippians 4:19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Motive in Giving

2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Humility of Giving

1 Chronicles 29:12–14 Both riches and honor come from you, & you rule over all. In your hand are power & might, & in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³ & now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.¹⁴ “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly? For all things come from you, & of your own have we given you.

Experience of Giving

Acts 20:35 remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

People make the mistake of believing that the Bible says “money is the root of evil”. Actually, it says the “love of money is the root of all kinds of evil”. How does the love of money tempt you? Security? Status? Stuff? Significance?

The rich have much responsibility. Wealthy in money, experience, relationships, power, or know how....How are you sharing these?

When we set our hope on the uncertainty of money...how do we deal with financial anxiety?

Notice how we also can enjoy the money God has given us. How are you enjoying the good gifts of God?

How are we becoming rich in good works? Are you investing in Christ like character as much as your career? Why is that important?

How does sharing our wealth bless others?

How does this passage describe “truly life”.