



SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday December 15th, 2019

Creating Space

Pastor David Cooke - Philippians 1:8-9 & 3:1-11

Matthew 1:18–25, ESV

• **Is There Room?**

- Taking Inventory
- What's Best? Your Top 5

A Prayer:

Jesus, help me love most the things you love most.

• **Creating Space**

Philippians 1:9–11, NIV

A. What Do You _____?

- Loving Begins With Being _____
1 John 4:10–11, NLT



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- We Do What We Love

-You Are _____

B. Change What You Love To Change _____

C. Loving What's _____

• **Creating Space**

Philippians 3:7–8, NLT

- More Is Not _____

- _____ Changes

• **The Best Is Always The** _____

Answers: Love, Loved, The Beloved, Who You Are, Best, Better, Everything, Best



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ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: Loving God Comprehensively

(Ps. 1:1-3,18:2; Pr. 18:2; Jer. 29:13; Mt. 22:37; 2Cor. 5:14-15; 1Thess. 5:16-18)
I recently returned from a trip to my hometown to visit my sweet grandma. She is at the end of her life, and I wanted to see her one last time. We don't know if it will be days or even weeks until she draws her last breath, but we know it's coming.

Times like this have a way of refocusing us—reminding us that the clock is ticking for each of us, and how we spend our time matters. If I could share one message with my passing minutes, it would be this: *Love God with everything in you. Nothing else matters.*

Throughout the Bible we see the command, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

But what does it actually mean to love God like that?

The use of “heart, soul, and mind” means our comprehensive self. Our thoughts, emotions, will, intentions, desires, and actions. Read that list again. *It means everything.* That completeness is emphasized by the word “all”— all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.

Now, what does it mean to love God?

First, let's notice that the command is to *love* God. It's not to obey God or serve Him or even worship Him. Too often we get so caught up in doing, or not doing, certain things that we lose sight of what God really wants from us. He is a relational God. After all, Jesus died on the cross *SO THAT* we could have a relationship with God, the Father. He is not after our deeds, He's after our love. All the rest—*loving others, serving and worshipping Him, living generously*—is simply evidence of our love for Him.

When we love God:

- *we get to know Him by reading the Bible*
- *we talk with Him through prayer*
- *we trust Him*
- *we follow Him*
- *we seek Him*
- *we depend on Him*
- *we long to please Him*

When we love God, we invest in our relationship with Him—*with our heart, soul and mind.*



This holiday season—*complete with party invitations, packages to wrap, trees to decorate, and dozens of other fun activities vying for our attention*—let’s remember why we celebrate Christmas. God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for our sins, *SO THAT* we can be in relationship with Him. Invest in that relationship. Prioritize time with Him.

The clock is ticking for each of us, and how we spend our time matters. Ask your Heavenly Father to show you how to love Him with your whole heart, soul and mind. -D. Bruss

Remembering Christmas Devotional: In this 5-Day Bible Plan, we’re intentionally **making room**—in our minds, relationships, time, bodies, and resources—to remember the real meaning of Christmas.

Visit: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13424-remembering-christmas>.

Making Space | An Advent Devotional

As the Christmas season begins, we usually find ourselves more stretched for time than the rest of the year. We get caught up in the frenzy – and forget to focus on what’s truly important. This devotional will help you clear the clutter so you can make more room for Christ this Christmas.

We would like to thank *Susan Narjala* for providing this plan. <https://bible.com/reading-plans/13415-making-space-an-advent-devotional>.



Experience Christmas | An Interactive Family Devotional

Discover who God is this Christmas through experiencing His word in song, in text, in what you say and how you share it with each other. Each devotion features a **Hear It, Read it, Say It, Share It** section where the family can interact with the devotion and apply it to their lives in a fun and meaningful way.

We would like to thank *Bethel Music Kids* for providing this plan.

<https://bible.com/reading-plans/3365-experience-christmas-a-family-devotional>.



Christmas Break | A Student Reading Plan

Christmas is the most magical time of year, except when it isn’t—when nothing looks like the Christmas we see in commercials, movies, and even our friends’ families. In this series, we’ll discover that, even when Christmas doesn’t live up to our expectations, because of Jesus, we still have a reason to celebrate.

<https://bible.com/reading-plans/12663-christmas-break>.



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