

The Cure
(Leviticus 19:18)

Introduction:

1. Great effort is being made to find a cure for coronavirus, a medical problem affecting many people [we certainly hope that a cure will soon be found].
2. In our lesson we are concentrating on the cure for social problems that are affecting many more people [lack of respect for authority, brutality, stealing, destroying property, killing, etc.].
3. This cure is revealed in Leviticus 19:18 -- *"love your neighbor as yourself."*
4. The giver of this cure is also revealed in the same passage -- *"I am the Lord."*

Discussion:

- I. THE BIBLE EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S CURE
 - A. (Matthew 22:35-40) Jesus revealed the 2 great commandments in the law.
 1. (vs.39) He identified the command we are studying as the 2nd commandment.
 2. (vs.40) It was 1 of the 2 commandments upon which all the law and prophets hung.
 - a. The 1st commandment summed up all the responsibilities that the Jews had toward God.
 - b. The 2nd commandment summed up all the responsibilities that the Jews had toward their neighbors (Leviticus 19:13, 14, 15, 16, 17).
 - B. The New Testament also reveals how important this commandment is to Christians (Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:13-15; James 2:8).
 - C. Since this commandment is so important we must understand it.
- II. THE BIBLE EXPLAINS GOD'S CURE
 - A. In explaining this cure, the Bible interprets God's commandment.
 1. (Matthew 5:43-48) Jesus dealt with a misinterpretation of this commandment.
 - a. A misinterpretation is revealed in vs.43.
 - b. Jesus taught His will in vs.44-48.
 2. Jesus gave a practical explanation of this commandment in Matthew 7:12.
 - B. In explaining this cure, the Bible illustrates God's command (Luke 10:25-37).
 1. (vs.25-29) We learn why Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan.
 2. (vs.30) A man needed assistance -- he had been robbed, stripped of his clothing, wounded, and left half dead.
 3. (vs.31-32) 2 men did not love their neighbor.
 - a. (vs.31) When a priest saw the man, he *"passed by on the other side."*
 - b. (vs.32) A Levite *"came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side."*
 4. (vs.33-35) A Samaritan did love his neighbor.
 - a. (vs.33) The Samaritan loved his neighbor because he had compassion on him.
 - b. He demonstrated his love by:
 - 1) caring for the man in need (vs.34)
 - 2) sacrificing so the man would be taken care of (vs.35).
 5. Jesus applied this parable to the lawyer in vs.36-37.
- III. THE BIBLE REVEALS THE SIDE EFFECTS OF GOD'S CURE
 - A. We showed earlier from Romans 13:10 that *"love worketh no ill to his neighbor."*
 - B. We also learn how love behaves, and does not behave, in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

Conclusion:

1. People who reject God's cure cause others to be discouraged.
2. However, those who practice God's cure cause others to be encouraged.
3. Let us make a special effort to always love our neighbors as ourselves.