

Practical Religion
LESSON 10: THE BEST FRIEND

This is my beloved and this is my friend. (Song 5:16)

I. The Friend we Need

- a. We are *sinners* (1 Ti. 1:15).
- b. We are *dying* (Je. 33:6; Rv. 2:11; 2 Ti. 1:10).
- c. We are *debtors* (Ho. 13:14; Is. 61:1; Ga. 3:13).
- d. We are *helpless* (Ps. 89:19; Lk. 19:10; Jb. 33:24).

II. Our Friend in Deed

- a. His *self-abasement* for our sakes (2 Co. 8:9).
- b. His *humble servitude* for our sakes (Ph. 2:7, 8).
- c. His *agonizing death* for our sakes (1 Th. 5:10).
- d. His *willing sacrifice* for our sakes (1 Pt. 3:18; 2 Co. 5:21; Ro. 5:8).

III. A Mighty and Powerful Friend (cf. Mt. 28:18)

- a. He is *able to pardon* and save the chief of sinners (1 Jn. 1:7).
- b. He is *able to convert* the hardest of hearts and create in us a new spirit (Jn. 1:12; 2 Co. 5:17).
- c. He is *able to preserve* to the end all who believe and follow him (Hb. 7:25; Jd. 1:24, 25).
- d. He is *able to give* those that love him the best gifts (Jn. 1:16; Ps. 126).

IV. A Loving and Affectionate Friend

- a. His *warm reception* of sinners (Lk. 15:2; Jn. 6:37).
- b. His *sympathetic dealings* with sinners having become his friends (Is. 53:3; Hb. 4:15).
- c. His *genuine delight* in his friends (Ps. 149:4; 147:11).
- d. His *selfless love* of such friends as we are (Mk. 14:72; Jn. 13:1).

V. A Wise and Prudent Friend

- a. He *never spoils* his friends (Lk. 9:23; cf. 1 Co. 10:13).
- b. He *never misleads* his friends (Is. 30:21; Ne. 9:12, 13).

VI. A Tried and Proved Friend

- a. He has friends *of every rank and station*.
- b. He has friends *of every age*.
- c. He has friends *of every temperament and disposition*.
- d. He has friends *of every condition*.
- e. He has friends *of nearly every nation, people, and tongue*.

VII. An Unfailing Friend

- a. He is the *friend who never changes* (Hb. 13:8).
- b. He is the *friend who never leaves and always stays* (Hb. 13:5; Pr. 18:24; Mt. 28:20).

VIII. Concluding Applications

- a. Consider whether Christ is your friend, and you are his.
- b. If you aren't Christ's friend, don't you want a friend?
- c. If you really want a friend, Christ is willing to become your friend.
- d. If Christ is your friend, walk worthy of this priceless friendship.