**R1038 Rumination for December 15, 2024**

The **T**heme: **Friendship** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *﻿Greater love hath no man than this, ﻿that a man lay down his life for his* ***friends****.* Jn. 15:13, 14

 *Ye are ﻿My* ***friends****, ﻿if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

The **T**hots:

1. **Christ, the Friend of Sinners. Jn. 15:13**
2. The **Need** of a True Friend.Psa. 142:4
3. *﻿﻿*In times of Loneli**ness**: *I looked on my right hand, and beheld,*

 *But there was no man that would know me.* 142:4a, b

1. In times of Helpless**ness**: *﻿ Refuge ﻿failed me;* 142:4c
2. In times of Neglectful**ness**: *No man cared for my soul.* 142:4d
3. The **Marks** of a True Friend.
4. *A friend lov****eth*** *at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.* Pro. 17:17
5. *And ﻿there is ﻿a friend that stick****eth*** *closer than a brother.* Pro. 18:24
6. A friend Help**eth** at all times. Eccl. 4:9, 10

*Two are better than one…For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow:*

*but ﻿woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.*

1. Christ, **the True Friend**. Rom. 5:6-11
2. *He loveth at all times.* Re. #2a above.
3. *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.* 5:6
4. *God ﻿commendeth ﻿His love toward us, in that, ﻿while we were yet sinners, ﻿Christ died for us.* 5:8
5. *For if, ﻿when we were enemies, ﻿we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son,*

*much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by ﻿His life.* 5:10

1. *He sticketh at all times.* Re. #2b above.
2. *For when we were yet* ***W****ithout strength, ﻿in due time ﻿Christ died for the ungodly.* 5:6
3. When we are **W**orthless: *scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure*

*for a good man some would even dare to die.* 5:7

1. When we were under **W**rath: 5:9 cf. I Jn. 2:2:1

*Much more then, being now justified ﻿by His blood, ﻿we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

1. *He helpth at all times.* Re. #2c above.
2. He is the **A**mbassador of God. 5:8

*But God ﻿commendeth ﻿His love toward us, in that, ﻿while we were yet sinners, ﻿Christ died for us.*

1. He is the **A**tonement for our Sin, 5:9, 11

 *Much more then, being now justified ﻿by His blood, ﻿we shall be saved from wrath through Him.*

*﻿And not only so, but we also ﻿joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

*by Whom we have now received the ﻿atonement.*

1. He is the **A**ssurance of our Salvation. 5:10

*For if, ﻿when we were enemies, ﻿we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son,*

*much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by ﻿His life.*

1. **Believers, the Friends of Christ –** *Ye are ﻿My friends, ﻿if ye do whatsoever I command you*. **Jn. 15:14**
2. The **C**all of Friendship. Jn. 15:15

*Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth:*

*but I have called you friends; for all things that ﻿I have heard of My Father ﻿I have made known unto you.*

1. He Reveals His **P**urpose,
2. He Reveals His **P**rogramme.
3. He Reveals His **P**rotection.
4. The **C**ondition of Friendship – Obedience to His **C**ommandments. Jn. 15:14

*Ye are ﻿My friends, ﻿if ye do whatsoever I command you.*

1. **C**ontinue in His Love. 15:9, 10

*As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in ﻿My love. ﻿If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept ﻿My Father’s commandments, and abide in His love.*

1. **C**ommunicate with One Another in Love. 15:12, 17

*This is My commandment, ﻿That ye love one another, as I have loved you…love one another.*

1. **C**onsistency in Fruit-bearing – *Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you…*

*that ye should go and ﻿bring forth fruit, and that ﻿your fruit should remain:*

1. The **C**ommunion of Friendship.
2. Abiding in Christ. 15:4, 5

*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine;*

*no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. I am the vine, ﻿ye are the branches: ﻿He that abideth in Me,*

*and I in him, the same ﻿bringeth forth much fruit: for ﻿without Me ye can do nothing.*

1. Abiding in His Words. 15:7

 *﻿If ye abide in Me, and ﻿My words abide in you, ﻿ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

1. Abiding in His Joy. 15:11

*These things have I spoken unto you, that ﻿My joy might remain in you, and ﻿that your joy might be full.*

**Points To Ponder: *Jesus has Chosen you to be His Friend; do not Fail Him – do not be His Foe!***