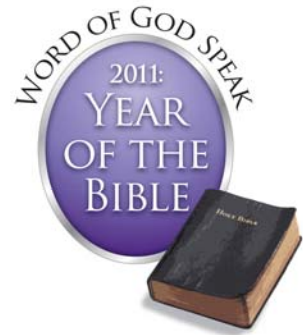


Week 36: Psalms 148-150 & 1 Corinthians 1-6 Study Guide for the week of September 5-11, 2011



Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, spend time with 1 Corinthians 5. In chapter 5, Paul deals with a situation of open and unrepentant sin among believers. Are believers to tolerate unrepentant sin (5:2)? Why not (5:6-7)? Does Paul expect life change in a person when one claims to be a believer (5:11)? What is the discipline meant to be for the person caught in sin (5:5)? What do you think of this teaching? Do you think that we should apply this teaching in our church? If so, how? Is there unrepentant sin in your own life? How much is this weighing on you and distracting you from what matters most in your life? How is it getting in the way of growing more intimate with Christ? What is the discipline you need to help you turn away from this sin? Do you have a Holy Spirit inspired plan for moving you away from this sin? Is there another believer that you could turn to confess this sin, hear the word of forgiveness, and help in turning away from it?

Discussion starters *If you are leading a small group, you may not have time for all of these questions. Pick the ones that will work best for your group.*

1. Ice Breaker Question: Besides someone in your family, who was an adult that had a big influence on you when you were young?
2. Was there something that jumped out at you, surprised you, encouraged you, or disturbed you from the readings this last week (or two)? Why?
3. Psalms 147-150 The Psalms conclude with three hymns of praise. Count the number of times the word “praise” appears in these psalms. We have taught that the purpose of all creation is to give praise the Lord. Count the number of created things that are called on to praise the Lord in these psalms. What are your thoughts about this?
4. Read Psalm 1 and Psalm 150, the first and last psalms. How does wisdom lead to praise? What does the path from wisdom to praise actually look like? How has it looked in your life? Is it always straight, easily and quickly navigated? What have you learned from the psalms about the path from wisdom to praise?
5. John Calvin once said the psalms are “an anatomy of all parts of the soul.” What have you learned about the anatomy of your soul through your study of the Psalms?
6. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 We now return to the New Testament after our Summer of Songs. Remember that Paul was writing letters to people. You can often tell what will be the content of a letter from the first couple sentences. Carefully reading verses 1-9, what do you suppose Paul will address in this letter to the Christians in Corinth? If you have a study Bible or commentary, have someone read an introduction to 1 Corinthians.
7. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 After reading these verses, how do you understand the message of the cross being foolish? Continue reading 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 2:16. What more insight to gain from these verses to answer the question?
8. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 What is Paul’s answer to the problem of individualism and rivalries? Is Paul’s answer still valid for us today? Why or why not?
9. 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 What do these verses teach about judging yourself? Are you a person that tends to judge yourself too harshly? If so, why? How do these verses speak to your tendency to do this?
10. 1 Corinthians 4:6 How would you apply the saying, “*Do not go beyond what is written.*” to your study and use of the Bible?
11. 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 What do these verses teach? Some say that the Church teaches too often on sexual sins. What do you think?

Bible verse to memorize: Psalm 1 Corinthians 1:18

Caring Time

It is important to make time in your group to care for each other. Sometimes that happens during the discussion and sometimes it is best to end your time together praying for each other. One possibility this week would be to pray for each other after each has answered this question:

What is something that you are facing this fall for which you would like us to pray?

After everyone has shared go into a time of prayer having the person sitting to your right pray for you in regards to your answer of this question.

Also encourage people in the group to get together outside of the group time to foster deeper friendships with each other. Remember that being in a small group is primarily about sharing life together. It has been said that the most important time in small groups is the time people connect outside of the meeting time.