

Adult Sunday School Class

Objective: Continue to review of the fundamentals of our faith.

Opening Prayer: Thank you Father, we pause now to acknowledge your presence..... I thank you that you always hear me. That you never leave me or forsake me and that you are an ever present help. I ask for a special anointing on this lesson plan and the time we will spend together today. Bless both speaker and listener. Open our hearts to receive a fresh revelation from your Spirit. I bind forces that would hinder and welcome the Holy Spirit as our teacher today. In Jesus name!

Read: Titus 2 & 3

Q – What were Paul's instructions to Titus regarding older people? - Teach them to:

- Be temperate.
- Be worthy of respect.
- Be self-controlled.
- Be sound in faith, love and endurance.
- Be reverent in the way they live.
- Don't slander others.
- Don't be addicted to much wine.
- Be teachers of what is good.
 - Love your spouse and children.
 - Be self-controlled and pure.
 - Be busy at home.
 - Be Kind.
 - Be subject to your spouse.
 - Display attitudes and behaviors that reinforce and align with the word of God.
 - Be an example of what is good.

Q – What were his instructions regarding the teachings of Titus?

- Display integrity.
- Seriousness.
- Soundness of speech.

Q – Why did he give these instructions to Titus? - So those who oppose him would have nothing bad to say about him or his ministry.

Q – What was his instructions regarding slaves? - They are to be subject to their masters in everything.

- Try to please them.
- Don't steal from them.
- Don't talk back to them.
- Show that they can be trusted.
- Make the teachings of God our savior attractive in every way. (Taste and see the Lord Is good!)

Q – What affect does our behavior have on the message we preach?

- It either reinforces it or detracts from it.
- As has been said so often, the message of the gospel is “better caught than taught”.

Q – What do you believe regarding his statement in verse 11? Allow me to read it to you from several versions of the scriptures.

- KJV - 11) For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.

- NIV - 11) For the grace of God has appeared that brings salvation to all people.
- Amplified - 11) For the grace of God (His unmerited favor and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin *and* the eternal salvation for all mankind.
- I believe Paul intended this statement to be consistent with Psalms 19:1-4 and Romans 1:18-20.
 - Psalms 19:1) The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. 2) Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. 3) They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. 4) Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.
 - Romans 1:18) The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20) For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

Q – What does the grace of God teach us? - God is love.

Q – How does the grace of God teach us love?

- By example.
- It teaches us to love and give ourselves for one another.

Q – How is the Holy Spirit made available? - Through the process of salvation.

Q – What is one of the primary tasks of the Holy Spirit? - The process of renewal in reborn lives.

Q – Why would Paul support the rule of “3 strikes and you're out! for divisive persons” ?

- Some are not willing to be changed by the Spirit of God.
- If after repeated attempts to help them see the error of their ways is unsuccessful.
- Have nothing more to do with them as continued association will contaminate the entire group.

Q – What is Paul talking about when he makes the statement “These things are excellent and profitable for all.”? - He is making reference to his statements in chapter 3, many of which are concepts already covered elsewhere in this letter.

- Be subject to rulers and authorities and be obedient.
- Be ready to do whatever is good.
- Slander no one, be peaceable and considerate.
- Show true humility toward all, devote yourself to doing what is good.
- Avoid foolish controversies.

Q – How would you describe the concept of sound doctrine? - A complete and balanced view of the principals of the scriptures.

Q – Which elements of scripture are most important to you, by that I mean, the ones you are most interested in having your loved ones understand and live by?

- The principals of salvation.
 - For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16,17)
 - Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13) children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12)
 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9) not by works, so that no one can boast. 10) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

- God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (II Corinthians 2:21)
- The mission of the Holy Spirit.
 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, **for he lives with you and will be in you.** (John 14:16-17)
 - But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:7)
 - But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)
 - But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (John 16:13)
- The continuing presence of God in our lives.
 - Never, never, never will I leave you and never will I forsake you (Hebrews 13:5)
 - God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in time of trouble. (Psalms 46:1)
 - Lo I am with you always even to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:20)
- Heaven or spending eternity with God.
 - 16) For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17) After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. (I Thessalonians 4)
 - 29) “Immediately after the distress of those days ““the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’30) “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 31) And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. (Matthew 24)
 - 11) “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go.” (Acts 1)
- Spiritual forces (angels and demons) exist in the world in which we live and they function in a hierarchical fashion for either good or evil, God or satan.
 - One can recognize which force they are dealing with by their motivations and techniques.
 - Open, constructive, helpful, kind and good.
 - Deceptive, dishonest, deceitful and destructive.
 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)
 - Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8) Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.** (I John 1:7)

Q – How has time affected your views of life and the things you believe in?

- Time has affected my relationship with God similar to the way it has affected my relationship with my wife and family.
 - My love has deepened.
 - Our relationship is richer and I feel much closer.
- My beliefs have become more focused on the basics and I feel more intense about them.
- I'm not as quick to make judgments or to draw premature conclusions.
- I'm convinced beliefs are passed on **more effectively** by actions than arguments.
- I'm less naive and more cynical toward “religious techniques” designed to manipulate people of faith.
 - Manner of speech.
 - Intonations.

- Religious gestures.
- “How to” books.
- Tapes or sermons of teachers who know exactly what must be done to put God to work on our behalf and why He must do things a certain way.
- God is not moved closer to us by the execution of
 - Clever techniques or
 - Our works of righteousness.
- He's moved by a heart of faith and genuine actions of love.
- He's always acting on our behalf even when the actions he's taking or allowing are inconsistent with our prayers and/or expectations.
- He knows what's best, at all times, even when there is pain involved.
- I have a greater comprehension of the grace and forgiveness of God.
 - God's grace is not a license to do as we please.
 - God is love and He understands how we are formed, that we're human.
 - He will not violate the human will but patiently waits for prodigal behaviors to play out.
 - However, be not deceived God is not mocked and His spirit will not always strive with mankind.
- I'm less tolerant of self-righteousness acts and attitudes both
 - In myself and
 - In others.
- I'm more aware than I've ever been of His providential actions on behalf of the loved ones of Believers.
 - He's the one who orchestrated the scenario that brought the prodigal son home.
 - He knows how to fulfill His promises to our children and grand children.
- I'm more inclined to be real and express my true feelings.
- I'm less inclined to worry about being politically correct.
- Our God is beyond all human comprehension both on an individual basis and collectively.
 - The scope of His knowledge and capabilities are overwhelming.
 - He knows when a sparrow falls & He knows the number of hairs on our heads.
 - He knows the names and attitudes of the heart or all 7+ billion people on this earth.
 - He knows me better than I know myself.
- I'm more fascinated than I've ever been with the genius of the design of all forms of life, both plant and animal.
 - Photosynthesis.
 - Genetics.
 - DNA.
 - The birthing process, to name a few
 - These are fascinating examples of magnificent designs.
- There are two primary and opposing statements or concepts of origins.
 - Both are religious in nature, both are built on faith.
 - Neither can be repeated and studied in a laboratory and as such they are **non-falsifiable**.
 - Since evidence is not proof for the skeptic, science or logic can **not** satisfactorily prove or disprove either statement.
 - Each statement and the underlying concepts are accepted by faith alone.
 - In the beginning God!
 - Or, there is no God and man is the master of his own fate!
- And finally.....I love and appreciate puppies and old dogs more than ever. :-))