

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

Jesus Will See Us Safely Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death

Week of July 29, 2018 A.D.

We are strangers who are traveling through the world of the dying while we are on our way into the world of the living. Jesus – our Good Shepherd – will get us safely home before dark.

Read Ephesians 6:10-12

1. Please explain why Paul calls this world a “dark world”. Who or what are “the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms”? Is this world our home? Does this world love the followers of Jesus? If so, why? If not, why not? Please explain your answers.

Read Luke 10:17 – 20

2. Are there demons in this world? From where do the demons come? Who is the ruler of the demons? Do demons have power? For what purposes do demons exist? Please explain your answers.

Read Luke 22:1 – 6

3. Please explain verse 3. What was Satan trying to accomplish here? Did Satan succeed? If so, how? If Satan failed, (a) what was the result? (b) how did he fail? and (c) what does Satan’s failure teach us about Jesus, God, and Christians? Please explain your answers.

Read John 18:33 – 37

4. Read verse 36. Is this world “a kingdom”? If so, who rules that world kingdom? How did he gain control of that kingdom? Will the ruler of this world rule forever? If not, why not? Please explain your answers.
5. Read verse 37. How important is truth in the kingdom of God? Why did Jesus come into the world? Will Satan enter into the eternal kingdom of God? Will any liar enter into the kingdom of God? How do you define “liar”? Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 4:1 – 11

6. Read verses 8 – 9. Does the devil (i.e. Satan) have authority and/or power over this world and the kingdoms of this world? If so, how did Satan get that authority and/or power and from whom? Please explain your answers.

Read John 12:23 – 33

7. Read verses 30-33. Who is “the prince of this world”? Has the prince of this world been “driven out”? Please explain your answers.
8. Read verses 23 – 26. Do our physical bodies (and/or does this current physical world) have “eternal life”? What is “eternal life”? How does a person receive eternal life? Please explain your answers.

Read John 8:42 - 47

9. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Every human being who has ever lived on this planet is either a child of God or a child of the devil. And, we get to choose whether we want God or the devil to be our father.”
10. Please explain how these verses and the verses from John 18:36 – 37 make it clear that there are currently two invisible kingdoms at war with each other on planet Earth. Please explain why and how truth and falsehood are the two absolutes which separate and distinguish the kingdom of God from the kingdom of Satan.

Read Psalm 23:1 - 6

11. How does this Psalm apply to our present life on Earth? Please explain your answer.
12. How does this Psalm apply to our life in the new heaven and the new earth which will be established by Christ in the future? Please explain your answer.

Consider: We are currently living in the valley of the shadow of death on this planet. The Good Shepherd (Jesus) has laid down His life for us (his sheep). Through the gift of eternal life, Jesus is with us always until the end of the age. Therefore, we shall fear no evil. And, we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. “You think about that.” Amen.