

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Getting Back to the Basics of Life

Week of March 22, 2020 A.D.

God has slowed us down and (hopefully) He has gotten our attention. I encourage all of us to turn off the television and the other electronic media and to give our undivided attention to the Lord. Start by reading Psalm 19:14. Then patiently – and with self-examination – dig into this week’s study notes. As you do, ask yourself this question: what can I do to make my life more pleasing to God?

Read Psalm 91:1 – 16

1. Does God ever tell a lie? (see Hebrews 6:18) Is God in control of all circumstances? Do Christians ever die from pestilence (Ps. 91:3)? Do bad things happen to Christians? Is it reasonable to trust in God (see Ps 91:2) in all circumstances of life? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
2. In your opinion, does Psalm 91 apply to (a) only the followers of Christ? or (b) all people? Is Psalm 91 to be understood and applied to (a) our physical existence, (b) our spiritual existence, or (c) to both spheres of our existence? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Romans 8:28 – 30

3. Do these verses apply to (a) all people? or (b) only the followers of Christ? Please describe some ways in which Jesus suffered (a) physically, (b) emotionally, and (c) spiritually. Please explain what God wants us to learn and apply from these verses.

Read Romans 8:31 – 34

4. What is your reaction to verse 31 (a) emotionally? (b) physically? (c) mentally, and (d) spiritually? In what way, if any, do these verses apply to the circumstances which you are currently experiencing in life? What help, if any, do you find in these verses? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Romans 8:35

5. What benefit is “the love of Christ” when a person is experiencing the awful circumstances which are mentioned in the second sentence of this verse? What practical value does verse 35 have for your daily life? Please explain.

Read Romans 8:35 – 38

6. Please explain how these verses applied to the lives of the first century followers of Jesus. Please compare and contrast how these verses apply to the lives of the followers of Christ in (a) the first century and (b) current day America? What, if anything, is God currently saying to us (the followers of Christ in America) through these verses? Please explain your answers.

Read John 6:63

7. What is the meaning of these sentences? Which do you value more (a) your physical life? or (b) your Spiritual life? Why? Please explain.
8. Please make two columns on a sheet of paper. List in one column the activities which you are doing each day to improve your physical life and, in the other, list the activities which you are doing each day to improve your spiritual life. Study each list. Then take whatever time is necessary to ask Jesus what changes you should make to each list so that your life may become more pleasing to Him.

Read Psalm 33:12 – 22

9. Please name those nations on earth which you believe to be a “nation whose God is the Lord” and explain the reasons for your answer. Refer to verses 18 – 19. In your opinion, is America pursuing a “temporary” or a “permanent” solution to avoid future epidemics such as the coronavirus crisis? Please explain the reasons for your answer.

Read 1 Peter 4:12 – 16

10. What painful trial (or trials) were suffered by the first century followers of Christ? Please explain how and why the first century Christians would find comfort and encouragement in these verses.

Read 1 Peter 4:17 – 19

11. Do these verses have any application to the current church in America? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read 1 Peter 2:9 – 12

12. Meditate on these verses – first, one verse at a time, then, next, all of the verses collectively. Make a list of the “good deeds” which you, your small group, and/or your church family may do to help each other, your family and friends, and your neighbors and community to experience the love of Christ while we are facing the threat of the coronavirus in America. Now what?

Consider: We are way too distracted by the busyness of the empty way of life given to us by culture. Be still. Know that the Lord is God. Get back to the basics of life by glorifying God through deliberate acts of kindness that benefit your family, the church, and your friends. “You think about that.” Amen.