

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Personal Silence is a Requirement for Hearing the Voice of God

Week of April 5, 2020 A.D.

God is a relational God who loves each of us unconditionally. He knows what we need to hear. And, He willingly tells us what we need to hear. However, if we want to know what God knows, and if we want to know the very best guidance for our lives, we must routinely choose to be still, to be quiet, and to listen to God.

Read Exodus 20:1 – 7

1. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “There can be only one God who created the universe, who alone rules the universe, and to whom alone all people must give an account.”
2. Read verse 3. Do all people everywhere create at least one or more little “gods” to which they give a higher priority (of their time, their devotion, and their emotional energy) than they give to the God of the Bible? Please explain and support the reasons for your answer. Please describe and/or identify some of the “little gods” and some of the “idols” which exist in America today.
3. Do you agree that America is the most wealthy and materialistic nation that has ever existed on the face of the earth? How do you think that the God of the Bible feels about the way Americans get, spend, and accumulate their personal and collective wealth? Please explain your answers.
4. Based upon your understanding of the teachings of Jesus and the teachings of the letters of the apostles contained in the New Testament, in what order of priority would Jesus and the apostles recommend that we spend the greater amounts of our annual income: savings, food, clothing, shelter, cars, house maintenance, recreation, vacations, missionaries, widows, orphans, and the local church? Please explain the reasons for your answers.

Read Habakkuk 2:18 - 20

5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Right now, while we are experiencing the world-wide spread of the coronavirus, God is calling our entire planet “to be silent”; and, to engage in the positive, wholesome, honest reflection of this question: What are the idols in your life?”

6. Why does Jesus want us to be silent before Him? How often do you come before God in silence and for how long each time? Are you willing to be silent before God on a regular daily basis: (a) to allow Him to search your heart? (b) to allow Him to express His will for your life? and (c) so that you can develop a growing desire to know, love, and value God as your best friend? Please explain, as best as you can, how you think God feels about each of your answers. How do you feel about your answers?

Read Matthew 10:28 – 31

7. In your opinion, are most Americans currently more afraid of (a) the coronavirus? or (b) God? Please explain the reasons for your answer.
8. In your opinion, who has caused or allowed the coronavirus to happen and to play out the way that it has so far: (a) God, (b) the devil, (c) both God and the devil, or (d) none of the above?

Read 2 Peter 3:3 – 7

9. In your opinion, based upon the attitudes and the behavior of the American people, is America a nation of (a) scoffers or (b) people who are excited for the return of Jesus Christ? Please explain your answer.
10. Go back to number 9 above. Analyze that question again. But, this time substitute the words “American church” for the words “American people”. Please explain your answer.

Read Romans 8:28

11. In your opinion, is God using the coronavirus to work for the good of those who love Him? In your opinion, is God using the coronavirus to work for the good of every person on the planet? Please explain your answers.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16 – 18

12. Do these verses have any application to your life? If not, why not? If so, why? Is there an unseen reality upon which you are fixing your eyes? If so, what is that reality and how is it changing your life? How are your current circumstances drawing you closer to Christ? Please explain your answers.

Consider: Even before time began, God had a plan to enable us to know Him, to love Him, to be loved by Him, and to spend eternity with Him in the new heaven and the new earth. “The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.” Only when we are silent, can we hear the soft sound of sandaled feet coming to sit with us for a personal conversation. “You think about that.” Amen.