

Personal / Small Group Sermon Study

Man the Lifeboats? Or, Walk on the Water?

Week of October 10, 2021 A.D.

Jesus said, "...when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Read Philippians 3:7 – 11

1. Is it possible to be a Christian without abandoning and/or giving up something that you cherish? If so, please explain why and how? If not, please state (a) what you have abandoned and/or given up; (b) why you have done so; and (c) how you now have a closer friendship with Christ because of what you have abandoned?
2. Please explain what it means: (a) to know Christ; (b) to know the power of Christ's resurrection; (c) to know the fellowship of sharing in Christ's sufferings; and (d) to become like Christ in His death? Please describe how each of these experiences has affected your personal behavior and your relationship with Jesus.
3. How does your experience and personal relationship with Christ compare with what Paul describes in verses 7 – 11? Using your own life as an example, please describe the change which happens in a person's life when they become a Christian.

Read Romans 8:28 – 29

4. Please describe something that you have experienced in which the end result did not work for your good. Did that experience convince you that (a) Romans 8:28 is not true and/or (b) God is a liar? Please explain the reasons for your answers.
5. Are you a Christian? If not, why not? If so, what evidence can you offer to confirm that you are a Christian? Please explain how you are being conformed to the likeness of Christ and describe how you are now more like Christ as a result.

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5

6. How often do you examine yourself to see whether you have faith in Christ? How do you make that examination? What evidence can you offer to demonstrate that Christ Jesus is alive within you? Please explain your answers.

Read Matthew 7:3 – 5

7. Does Jesus state that we are to never judge and/or correct other people? Does Jesus judge and/or correct us? If so, how? If so, why? If we are to judge and/or correct other people, (a) how are we to do so? and (b) why are we to do so?

Read 2 Timothy 3:12 – 17

8. Does God want you and me to live godly lives? If so, why? If not, why not? Is it possible to live a godly life without (a) being persecuted/subjected to hostility? (b) a deep commitment to study, learn, and follow the teachings of the Bible? (c) having a mind that correctly understands good and evil, right and wrong, how to seek and follow truth, and how to know and reject lies? Does God expect you and me to seek out the needs of others and to help them? Please explain your answers by specific reference to the contents of these verses 12 – 17.

Read Romans 12:1 – 2

9. Which is easier to do: (a) to exhibit the life of Jesus in everything that you think, do, and say everyday or (b) to die a martyr's death for being a Christian? Please explain the reasons for your answer.
10. Please explain the meaning of "God's mercy" to which Paul refers in verse 1? If you have received that mercy: (a) what do you owe – if anything – to God? (b) what does God owe to you? (c) what does God expect from you in return for His mercy? and (d) if God does expect something from you in return, where do you get the ability to give it? Please explain your answers.
11. It is reasonable for God to ask you to (a) not conform any longer to the pattern of this world? (b) renew your mind? and (c) dedicate your earthly life to seeking His approval in all that you do? Does God offer to you any assistance which is intended to enable you to answer "yes" to questions (a), (b), and (c)? If not, why not? If so, please describe that assistance and how He provides it.
12. Please identify the most far-reaching event which is currently happening on planet earth? Is God involved in that event? If so, how and why? What is "the pattern" which "this world" is following in response to that event? Please describe specifically how "the American church" is responding differently than the pagans are responding? In your opinion, is God pleased with (a) the response of the church? and/or (b) your personal response? Please explain each answer.

Consider: When pagans suffer, God also allows His church to suffer so that the pagans can see the difference. "You think about that." Amen.