

Community Group Study Questions

For the week of January 19, 2020

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1 If you were to give four or five words or titles that paint a picture of your identity as an individual, what would they be?
Or
Describe an experience you have had with both good & bad leadership (employer, teacher, govt. etc)
What difference did the two kinds of leadership make in your experience?

- 2 Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

TITUS: DIGGING DEEPER

- 1 This week, Kyle looked at the first 4 verses of Titus 1. This section is one sentence in the Greek, and is packed with doctrinal truth that is meant to be a foundation for the faith of every Christian. Read through these 4 verses and highlight anything that stands out to you that you would like to discuss or know more about.

Titus 1:1-4 *Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness, ² in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began ³ and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;*

⁴ *To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.*

1. Paul called himself a bond slave. How does Deuteronomy 15:16-17 cast extra light on this title and position of a bond slave/bondservant?
2. How does being called by God and into Christ's service result in both humility and confidence? (consider v. 1, Paul was both a slave of God and apostle of Jesus Christ)
3. What is the Christian hope that Titus is speaking about in v. 1:2, 3:7, & 2:13? Why is a Christian hope a sure hope; one that will not fail?
4. What is your attitude toward authority? Toward church authority? What does Paul write that both confirms his authority, but also shows that he is worthy of trusting as an authority figure?
5. What attributes about God can you learn from this section in Titus?

From your notes and the scriptures you read below take some time to answer the questions about the doctrine of election. (For further study, please read the handout "My Understanding of the Biblical Doctrine of Election.")

Titus introduces the doctrine of election as the firm foundation for our Christian hope. He tied this to knowing truth, to our hope of eternal life, to God's promise before time began, and the fact that God never lies. Apparently Paul wanted us to understand and believe in the doctrine of Election!

Here is a summary of the doctrine of Election: Election means that God is the one who chose all believers, not based on anything they had done, but according to His sovereign will and plan. This is necessary because everyone is depraved sinners, and could never chose God unless He chose us first.

Kyle listed a few passages that speak about the doctrine of election. Discuss what each verse teaches us about God's election/choosing.

Eph. 2:1 you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . .

Eph. 2:4-5 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph. 2:8-10 ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Eph. 1:4-5 God chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

2 Thess. 2:13 God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2 Tim. 1:8-9 . . . share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,

1. D. L. Moody thought that election meant this: "God chose me for himself, but the devil chose me for himself. My choice is the tie-breaker."

What is wrong with that statement? (see Election handout for a concise answer)

2. Three basic questions arise when discussing election:
- Is God fair?
 - Doesn't this make us robots?
 - Why should I evangelize?

What do you think about these questions (or even objections) about election? What is your answer to each?

(All three questions are answered in Romans 9-11, the great passage in the Bible which deals with this doctrine. Romans 9 answers the question of our choice, Rom 10 answers the question of the need for evangelism, and Rom 11 answers the question of God's fairness. See Daniel Wallace Handout on Election.)

Take some time this week to read through the handout on election and think through it's implications in your own faith in Christ.

TAKING IT HOME

- 1 What areas of this study do you most need to put into practice in your life today?
- 2 Looking back on this week's sermon and study, what's most important for you to remember?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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