

Dig Deeper @Home – “God’s Will”

Complement to sermon on 7/1/2018 – “Discovering God’s Will”

ICE BREAKER – ask these to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is your favorite animal? What color shirt are you wearing? Combine the two answers and this is your Ninja name. Share your ninja name with the group.
2. Would you rather have eyes with night vision or hands and feet that became webbed when you went swimming? Why?

MEMORIZE – 2nd Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promises as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

READ – 1st Thessalonians

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does this passage reveal about God? About humanity?
2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life?
3. In 1st Thessalonians 2, we get two pictures of mothers and fathers. What does this mean for how mothers and fathers are to treat their children? Paul uses these illustrations to talk about how he treated the Thessalonians. How does that give guidance for how Christians are to treat others?
4. In 1st Thessalonians 3 we see a report from Timothy that encourages Paul (v6-10). What brings him encouragement and what does this tell you about Paul’s desires and concerns for the Thessalonians?
5. Look again at 1st Thessalonians 4:7, specifically the prepositions. "For God has not called us *for* impurity but *in* holiness."
 - a. What would it mean if it said "for holiness" instead of "in holiness"?
 - b. What is significant about the word choice that Paul was inspired to use by the Holy Spirit?
 - c. Look at your own life. Where do you see holiness in your life? Where do you see impurity in your life?
 - d. According to v2-7, what is the reason God gave us his Holy Spirit? How can this help your answers the 3c?
6. In 1st Thessalonians 5: 1-11, Paul contrasts people who are drunk/night with people who are sober/day. Write down observations you see about these two groups of people. Where in your life do you need the Holy Spirit to enable you to live as children of the light?

Experiential: Location, Location, Location

There is an old saying when it comes to a successful retail business: location, location, location. Location matters. It is important. Your location also matters. This is what Paul was reminding the Thessalonians when he said, "For God has not called us for impurity, but *in* holiness." Here's an activity to help us think about being called *in* holiness and not *for* holiness. Get yourself bundled up as if you were going outside to play in the snow and be sure to use all of the options. Wear long underwear, throw on several shirts, put on snow pants, heavy socks, snow boots, gloves, a scarf, your winter jacket and the hat. But here is the key: stay inside. Stay this way for 5-10 minutes. Now, look at the sentence again. What difference does it make knowing you were not called for holiness but that you were called in holiness?

Testimony Time – Share why you follow/trust Jesus with one person this week and/or ask one person who you know to follow/trust Jesus why they do

SING (suggested songs to sing. Use these or any song you might want to sing)

Grace so Glorious - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MVM4ss9OFo>

As you worship, reflect on God's holiness and your sinfulness and God's great love which forgives, heals and restores you.

Would you be Free – Mennonite Hymnal #555

A hymn that gives glory to God for the powerful blood of Jesus.

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

Gracious Father, thank you for your love and patience. Be gloried in us as we grow in holiness by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. May we become more and more transformed into the image of Jesus Christ this week. In Jesus Name, Amen.