

life group study guide

BRICK AND MORTAR

July 3, 2016

“Brick by Brick – Part 2”

Read John 8: 31-36

Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

“Be we are descendants of Abraham,” they said. “We have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean, ‘You will be set free?’”

Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin. A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever. So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”

Questions for discussion:

Define “disciple”. What are your concepts of a true disciple? Contrast discipleship in Jesus’ day with our culture today. What must one do to be a true disciple?

What must one do to experience true freedom? In what sense does truth make us free? Some would suggest that freedom gives us the latitude to do as we please. How do we respond?

Name some ways in which people mistakenly pursue freedom.

What arguments did the Jews make to try and prove they did not need to be made free? Were these arguments valid? Why or why not? Explain.

What kind of bondage was Jesus talking about? Who can free a slave? How does that compare and contrast with freedom from spiritual slavery?

Read these verses from Galatians 5

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”

“For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? It certainly isn’t God, for he is the one who called you to freedom.”

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy,

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outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”

“Those who belong in Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.”

Questions for discussion:

What freedom (liberty) did Christ give us? What is the yoke of slavery? Can you think of any other Scriptures that talk about this?

Explain the application of this passage to the Judaizers, to the Galatians, and to us.

What does it mean that there is no benefit in being circumcised or uncircumcised? What is the application in context?

What does avail in Christ? Explain the importance of the concepts of faith, working and love. Does the gospel save by faith only? Explain your answer.

Why do you think Paul asked “Who has held you back from following the truth?” What is the answer – based on the context – and what does his question imply?

Paul tells us that God is NOT the answer. What conclusions can we draw from that?

What does liberty in Christ NOT mean? Where else in Scripture do we read about liberty or freedom? Give examples of the kinds of situations in which people might use liberty as an opportunity to live in the flesh.

What does love do? Where else is this taught?

What is the consequence of practicing works of the flesh? What value is there in repeating what has already been taught to people? List the works of the flesh as they are outlined in the Galatians 5 passage. For each one, define it and cite another Biblical passage or incident about it.

What does it mean to crucify the flesh? Where else in the Bible do you read similar ideas? When the flesh is crucified, how do we then live? What should this mean in our lives?

Conclude by reading Romans 6:22-23

“But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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