

Sermon Discussion Questions

**Stir Our Hearts**

Romans 9:1-5

July 22, 2018

1. Jeremy opened the sermon with a question based on a quote from A.W. Tozer, in his classic book, Knowledge of the Holy, who wrote in his opening words, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” So what comes into your mind when you think about God?
2. The first point was “Growing a heart for the lost.” Paul had a heart like Jesus for those who don’t know the Lord as their personal Savior. When Jeremy read those two lists how did it stir your heart? And more specifically, how did it stir your heart for the lost?
  - a. Remember the Penn Jillette video – an atheist who was approached by a Christian who shared with him a Bible and Christ and Penn wasn’t turned off by him? In what way did that motivate you when it comes to reaching out to those who are not followers of Christ? How does Romans 1:16-17 motivate you along these same lines?
3. If we are stirred to reach out to the lost with the good news of Jesus, remember how Jeremy said to understand their hearts (cf. Romans 10:21 describes Israelites, yet it describes other hearts as well). Read John 6:44 and John 16:5-11 (*this second passage can be a challenge. If you have a copy, you can refer to John Jesus and Me for help in understanding this text*) and discuss how we can rely on the Holy Spirit when we are reaching out to the lost with the good news about Jesus.
4. The way Paul didn’t carry this burden for the lost to the point of weighing him down too much is to stir his heart toward the Lord. The second point Jeremy made under “Keeping our hearts toward the Lord” was that we adore or bless the Lord. The Greek word in Romans 9:5 for “blessed” literally means “good words” or “praise.” What can we praise (or adore) the Lord for?
5. Jeremy explained that “Amen” means to have a confident faith in someone or something. Rank your confidence in your faith in Jesus (1 = weak, 10 = super-confident), and explain why you gave yourself that ranking.
6. By the end of the service Jeremy’s hope was that we would be motivated to reach out from our hearts to those who are lost. Were you motivated, and what are you going to do to bring Jesus to the people of our county?