

DEVOTIONS AND NOTES FOR OCTOBER 13-18

Sermon Notes for October 12 **"A Good Tired"**

1. The resurrected life is not one free from hardship, but one that enfolds us into our God-given and eternal purpose.

"If we died with Christ, we will live with him, If we don't give up, we will rule with him." 2 Timothy 2:11-12

2. Choosing to reject committing to Jesus means we reject everything—including the goodness that would come from a life lived with Him.

"If we deny that we know him, he will deny that he knows us. If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful. Christ cannot deny who he is." -2 Timothy 2:12-13

3. Ultimately, God will remain who God is; no matter who we choose to be.

"But God's good news isn't locked in jail, and so I am willing to put up with anything. Then God's special people will be saved and given eternal glory because they belong to Christ Jesus." -2 Timothy 2:9-10

have all our earthly desires met, what is it? How does looking beyond oneself increase both strength and positivity? How do we "keep our minds on Jesus (v.8) and why?"

Friday, October 17 Read 1 Peter 4:1-13

The Scripture is at great pains to draw a distinction between the flesh (earthly goals and values) and the eternal life of God. Such separation is painful (in Colossians 2: 11 Paul calls it the 'circumcision of the flesh'!) but necessary. Are there times that challenges and sufferings have helped you reprioritize and draw closer to God? Discuss your current challenges with Him in this context.

Saturday, October 18 Read Romans 5:1-8

Re-read vv.3-5. While we rarely think of trials and challenges as being good for us, what positive note about them is sounded here? Are there times you have experienced this truth in your own faith walk? How do we encourage people who are being tested or going through periods of doubt? What good news is available for them?

Monday, October 13 Read Psalm 66:1-12

At v.10 this psalm of praise seems to take a drastic turn. How are vv.10-12 also a song of praise? What is being celebrated and why? Does this reflect how you see and understand tests and trials? Why or why not?

Tuesday October 14 Read Jeremiah 29:1;4-7

In the midst of exile, the Israelites are instructed to both maintain hope and be a blessing to their captors. This is both a demonstration of their ultimate trust in God and a witness to the Babylonians. What does our response to the challenges of life say about our own dependence on God? How can we live in such a way as to be both blessings to others and witnesses to God?

Wednesday, October 15 Read Luke 17:11-19

So often we turn to God only when all of our efforts have failed. Worse we credit ourselves with skill, luck or cleverness and forget to see God at work and thank Him. Why does Luke point out the fact that the one grateful man was a Samaritan? What does this say about those who are supposed to be close to God? What might it suggest for us?

Thursday, October 16 Read 2 Timothy 2:8-15

V. 9 reminds us that while Paul's body may be hindered, the purpose for which he exists is not. If the goal of discipleship is not to

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PART 1: Warming up

1. Read Psalm 66:1-12 and discuss the following with your group.

- *At v.10 this psalm of praise seems to take a drastic turn. How are vv.10-12 also a song of praise?*
- *What is being celebrated and why? Does this reflect how you see and understand tests and trials? Why or why not?*

2. Read Jeremiah 29:1;4-7 Share: “In the midst of exile, the Israelites are instructed to both maintain hope and be a blessing to their captors. This is both a demonstration of their ultimate trust in God and a witness to the Babylonians.” Reflect on the following with your group:

- *What does our response to the challenges of life say about our own dependence on God?*
- *How can we live in such a way as to be both blessings to others and witnesses to God?*
- *Like the exiles, we Christians must remember that the resurrected life is not one free from hardship, but one that enfolds us into our God-given and eternal purpose. How does this knowledge shape us in dealing with challenges and hardships? With this in mind, what is our God-given purpose?*

PART 2: Pushing Back

1. Read 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Share: “V. 9 reminds us that while Paul’s body may be hindered, the purpose for which he exists is not.” If the goal of discipleship is not to have all our earthly desires met, what is it?

- *How does looking beyond oneself increase both strength and positivity? How do we “keep our minds on Jesus (v.8) and why?”*
- *As Paul makes clear to Timothy choosing to reject committing to Jesus means we reject **everything**—including the goodness that would come from a life lived with Him. How does a weakly practiced faith ultimately let us down? Why are so many only minimally committed to being true disciples of Christ?*