

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

JUNE 14, 2020

Big Questions: What Does God Want? Part 3 - David Lane

WARM-UP

1. As you reflected on the first three answers that Pastor Dave preached last week (live in peace with one another; admonish the unruly; encourage the fainthearted), which one struck a particular chord with you, and why?

DIGGING DEEPER

The first question of this series that Dave wants us to consider is, "What Does God Want?" This week, in Part 3, as Dave concludes this first Big Question, he continues preaching from Paul's first letter to the church at Thessalonica, in Chapter 5, verses 13b-18. This passage includes ten crystal clear and practical answers to this Big Question. This week, Dave explores the final seven answers. For context, first read the entire passage, verses 13b-18.

Answer #4 – Help the weak – READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:14c

2. Dave asks us to consider this question: "Lord, in what ways do you want me to help the weak?" What comes foremost to your mind as you ask this question? How is the Holy Spirit involved in your consideration? What might be a collective EAC answer to this question? Why?

Answer #5 – Be patient with everyone – READ: 1 Thessalonians 5:14d

3. Why does Paul frame the answer, "...with everyone"? In these challenging times, how challenging is this answer for us? Why? What do we need to depend on to carry out this answer?

Answer #6 – Don't repay evil for evil – READ: Thessalonians 5:15a

4. Our human nature can lead us into temptation to repay with evil. As believers, how do we resist this temptation?

Answer #7 – Seek good for one another & all people – READ: Thessalonians 5:15b

5. This answer links to #6. What does this answer mean? How do we move in this direction, despite our human nature toward 'payback'? Read 1 John 3:23-24. How is this perspective from John related to Paul's answer #7?

Answer #8 – Rejoice always – READ: Thessalonians 5:16

6. For believers, joy is a state of contentment because the ultimate threats are resolved – what are these ultimate threats and how, for believers, are they resolved? So why does God want us to "rejoice always"? How is that even possible?

Answer #9 – Pray without ceasing – READ: Thessalonians 5:17

7. How is this possible? Does it lie in what we think prayer means? How so? Does our three-fold approach to prayer inform this answer #9? How?

Answer #10 – In everything, give thanks – READ: Thessalonians 5:18a

8. What a difference a preposition makes – how would this answer #10 be different if it was worded, “For everything, give thanks”? How is this answer #10 related to answer #9?
9. Read Thessalonians 5:18b. Reflect again on this summary of the passage. In your own words, how is God’s will expressed, understood and lived out?

PRAYER

Pastor Dave says that we, as believers, are “agents of the Kingdom” and “agents of goodness”. Use this time of prayer to ‘seek His face’ and ask God what He wants from you, and for you, as His agent in the days ahead.

Just in case you missed the service here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQTWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw