

Fishers of men by God's grace and for His glory

Introduction

Below are brief introductions to our lessons this week for each adult class.

Adult Topical Class (Bible Studies for Life – Confident in the Face of Hard Questions)

Teacher: Craig Pleasants

Lesson Title: Is Hell Real?

Focal Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Theme: Eternal punishment awaits those who do not follow Christ.

Lesson Overview: Our topic for this week may not be a subject many are fond to study, but familiarization with what the scripture teaches about the terrible reality of hell can give us a greater appreciation of what being saved is all about. This lesson helps us reflect on the eternal punishment that we are saved from, with the intent of “lighting a fire under us” to faithfully share the gospel with all we know that are lost and help them discover the grace of Christ.

⁷And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

⁴⁶And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Matthew 25:46

Adult Bible Book Class (Explore the Bible – Mark)

Teacher: Thomas Littleton

Lesson Title: Sacrificed

Focal Scripture: Mark 15:24-39

Theme: Jesus paid the penalty for our sins on the cross.

Lesson Overview: Our focal passage for this week relates the crucifixion of Jesus. Beaten, mocked, and on a cross between two thieves Jesus gave His life for ours, bearing our sins and purchasing our redemption. Upon His death “*the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom*” (38) indicating our access to God was now open. This lesson points out how these events fulfilled Old Testament prophesy, particularly in Psalm 22. While the sign placed upon His cross “THE KING OF THE JEWS” (26) said more than they knew, His resurrection would reveal Jesus is the “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:16).

*³⁹And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God. **Mark 15:39***

*²⁷All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. ²⁸For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among (ruler over) the nations. **Psalm 22:27-28***

Closing Thoughts

My thoughts for this week were prompted by a verse from last week's sermon on the end times:

*¹²And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. **Matthew 24:12***

Any check of today's news seems to bear out the fulfillment of this verse, but this must not be the case with the people of God. While Mark was preaching my eye was drawn to these verses on the opposite page in my Bible:

*³⁶Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Matthew 22:36-40***

Jesus taught that the greatest commandments, were to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and to love our neighbor as ourself. He elaborated further on this requirement by teaching we are to love sacrificially, even as He loves us.

*¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. **John 13:14-15***

*³⁴A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. ³⁵By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. **John 13:34-35***

Love goes beyond just warm feelings for someone; it is revealed by our actions - helping when it's not convenient, devoting time and energy to another's welfare, absorbing hurts without retribution, and directed toward others instead of focused on ourselves. Showing this kind of Christlike love is hard; that's why people take notice when we do it. They get a glimpse of God through our actions which can reach people like words alone can never do. May God give us grace to be living examples of Jesus' love, and regardless of outside circumstances may our faith be demonstrated through love that others might be drawn to Christ.

*¹⁰Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. ¹²No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. **1 John 4:10-12***

Please prayerfully consider meeting with us this week for 10:00 am Sunday School as we fellowship, encourage, and study God's word together.