

SCRIPTURES FOR 12/31/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Deuteronomy 33:29

Blessed are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will trample down their high places."

Psalm 118:7

The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I will look in triumph on my enemies.

Galatians 3:1-5

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? *Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?* Have you suffered so much for nothing--if it really was for nothing? Does God give you his

Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

2 Timothy 4:1-8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day--and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed



MISSION: POSSIBLE

How do we turn an impossible mission into a mission accomplished?

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

OPENING:

ICEBREAKER or GET YA THINKIN' QUESTION: _____

OPENING PRAYER NOTES: _____

INTRODUCTION:

This week, Ed talked discussed the mission of the church and its inherent challenges (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

Q: What were you thinking of when Ed asked you to think of the "hardest thing you ever did?"

Q: How did you go from thinking it was impossible to actually doing it?

DIG DEEPER:

Q: Do you think Ed was right about us "teaming up with God" or do you think we just need to get out of His way? (*Deut. 33:29/Psalm 118:7*)

In the New American Standard translation, the Holy Spirit is described as a "helper" or *parakletos* (Greek for "counselor, advocate, assistant, aid") "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." John 14:26 (NASB)

Q: Of the individual elements of the church's mission that Ed shared (recruit, praise, train, gather, pray, fellowship, study, share, do good, defend your faith) which do you think is most important and why? Which do you have the greatest gifts for?

APPLICATION:

Here are the three segments of the MISSION: POSSIBLE dossier:

Understand your OBJECTIVES

Q: In Galatians 3:3, Paul says, "*Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?*" but in Philippians 3:13-14, he says, "*Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*" Is Paul bipolar? How can we reconcile this? What's the difference (Gal – refers to salvation / Phil – refers to personal holiness)

Recognize your OBSTACLES

Q: Do you prefer the Pre-Modern church (theology from ritual), the Modern church (theology from the classroom), the Boomer church (theology as productivity), or the Post-Modern church (truth from experience and entertainment)?

Q: Do you know anyone who is totally mired in our Post-Modern, value-starved, relativist cultural trap? How do they deal with moral dilemmas? How do they feel about long-term commitments or delayed gratification?

Identify your STRATEGY

Q: Do you understand DRAW people IN, BUILD people UP, SEND people OUT? Which do you think WCC is best at?

Q: Do you understand HALO and BTG? If you are volunteering in a ministry, which does it fall under?

CONCLUSION

Paul encourages Timothy to fight the good fight (*2 Timothy 4:1-8*), not to earn salvation but a crown of righteousness.

Let's see if we can't get one of those.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GROUP NEEDS: _____ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: _____

WHO'S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____