

SCRIPTURES FOR 3/4/07 LIFEGROUP LESSON

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

Romans 8:1

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus

Romans 8:2

because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

2 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Leviticus 19:2

"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'"

Matthew 5:20

For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 23:1-7

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy loads and put them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. "Everything they do is done for men to

see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the marketplaces and to have men call them 'Rabbi.'

Matthew 23:27

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean.

2 Corinthians 3:18

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:20a

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

Luke 6:12

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 23:11

The greatest among you will be your servant.

Ephesians 4:11-13

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

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



STEWARDSHIP AS LORDSHIP

My Value Assessment Checklist - Part 1

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:

(*have someone read Matthew 6:21*) This week, Jeff began to encourage a time of self-examination, a time to evaluate where our treasure is.

Q: What is the purpose of self-examination? The danger?

Q: Have you ever taken a self-test and been surprised by the answers?

DIG DEEPER:

Paul also suggested self-examination for those doubting his authority in Corinth (*have someone read 2 Cor 13:5*).

Q: This verse suggests we might not pass the test. What should we do then?

(*have someone read Romans 8:1*) "Condemnation" comes from the Greek *katakrima* (pr: cot-AH-cream-ah) meaning "damnatory sentence" so there is no damnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Here "in" (Greek: *en*) is a preposition that implies the position of rest intermediate between *eis* (pr: ice, def: into) and *ek* (def: out of). So, if we are IN Christ Jesus, it is a position of rest between "coming into" and "going out of" relationship with Jesus Christ. I thought that was interesting; I digress - Ed

APPLICATION:

CHECKLIST:

Item #1 – Am I content with who I'm becoming as a child of God? (*2 Peter 1:13-16*)

Q: This refers to Leviticus 19:2 and other passages in that book (*read Lev 19:2*). How is God's call to holiness for the Israelites different from his call to holiness for the church? (*see Romans 8:2*)

Q: Should you be content with your who you're becoming?

Item #2 – Am I becoming less *religious* and more *spiritual*? (*have someone read Matthew 5:20, 23:1-7, & 27*)

Q: The Pharisees were very religious; how can we be more righteous than they were?

Q: What do you think is more important, less religious, or more spiritual? Why?

Item #3 – Does my family recognize the authenticity of my walk? (*have someone read 2 Corinthians 3:18*)

Q: We needn't be perfect, but are our lives reflecting God's glory – would we need to put a veil on to cover it up?

Item #4 – Do I have a flow-thru philosophy? (*read 2 Corinthians 5:20a*)

Q: How can we better bless as God has blessed us?

Item #5 – Do I have a quiet center? (*have someone read Luke 6:12 & Philippians 4:6-7*)

Q: Not only does Paul suggest that prayer protects you and gives you peace, but even Jesus needed time to recharge and get away to be with the Father; do you have a regular time where you do this?

Item #6 – Have I defined my unique ministry? (*have someone read Matthew 23:11, Ephesians 4:11-13*)

Q: Have you found a unique area in which to serve? If not, why not?

CONCLUSION

Jeff will conclude with items 7-12 next week. Please pray over items 1-6 this week.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

GROUP NEEDS: _____ SHUT-IN MINISTRY: _____

WHO'S LEADING...

THIS WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____

NEXT WEEK: WORSHIP: _____ PRAYER: _____