

Home Group Notes

Week of November 11, 2018

NOTES TO LEADERS: The focus for this week is on the motivations for continuing Jesus' (and Paul's) mission to help people be reconciled to God. There are several very specific motivations in this passage. In addition, we also know that there are two other very essential motivators: The glory of God and compassion for those without Christ.

SHARE IT

If you were asked to be "The United States Ambassador to Bolivia," what might be your response? What would you need to do this well?

NOTES TO LEADERS: It would be an honor and a privilege to represent the United States. Imagine Jesus personally asking you to represent Him. (He has) What we would need: (1) know well what we are to do, (2) know the culture of the land, (3) get equipped.

LEARN FROM THE SCRIPTURES

The focus this week is on motivation for being "intentional influencers" in our worlds. Read 2 Corinthians 5:9-20.

In your own words, what motivated Paul (the author) to reach his world? (9-20)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Todd spoke about these in his message.

From this passage, what was the message that Paul was trying persuade people to believe? Why might this take 'persuasion?'

NOTES TO LEADERS: His message included that God wants us in a relationship with Him, that we cannot achieve this because of our sin, that God/Christ in love paid the price, that now we can be reconciled with God, etc.

How would you describe Paul's purpose in life and his lifestyle or passion?

NOTES TO LEADERS: Paul makes mention of the change in lifestyle and passion to now living for the purpose of representing Christ in His mission to reconcile people to God. Notice all these reasons for and the expressions of Paul's passion to take up the cause:

- goal to please him,
- we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.
- we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.
- for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.
- For Christ's love compels us
- we are convinced
- if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation,
- Christ gave us the ministry of reconciliation.
- he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
- We are therefore Christ's ambassadors
- THEREFORE: We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

What references does Paul make about the present and the future? Why is this important?

NOTES TO LEADERS: He spoke of the choice to stay on this earth or go to be with the Lord (future), future judgment, using your present life to serve God, no longer thinking about this present world but instead focusing on the future life, we are a new creation and the old has gone. The KEY IDEA HERE IS TO USE THIS PRESENT LIFE TO SERVE JESUS AND HIS MISSION TO RECONCILE THE WORLD TO GOD.

How do you personally respond to the challenge of this passage?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The aim of this question is to consider what God is saying to each person.

DISCUSS TOGETHER

What are some ways to respond to the challenge in this passage? (Encouraged? Overwhelmed? Guilted? Spurred on?)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Worth discussing. This helps us see how we personally are responding.

Paul had a change that took place in his life-purpose. What is the process of taking seriously these words? (For example, in his message, Todd referred to a change in his life.)

NOTES TO LEADERS: Again, seeing the process helps us evaluate our present position and lifestyle.

**May the Holy Spirit guide you as you encourage and equip your friends,
Steve**