

COMMUNITY GROUP WEEKLY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week of February 14th, 2010

THIS WEEK'S FOCUS

Our Perfect Pioneer

"Millions long for immortality who don't know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon."

-Susan Ertz

"In the end that Face which is the delight or the terror of the universe must be turned upon each of us either with one expression or with the other, either conferring glory inexpressible or inflicting shame that can never be cured or disguised."

-C.S. Lewis

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 2:5-18

MEMORY VERSES

Last Week: Hebrews 2:1

This Week: Hebrews

RELATED TEXTS TO EXPLORE

Acts 2:22, 43, 5:32, 7:53, 27; Hebrews 7, 10, 12; Num 15:30, 31; Deut 4:3, 17:2-12, 27:26; Mark 8, 16:20; Luke 1:2, 22:28; 1 Cor 12:4-11; 1 John 2, 3:8; 12:42-43; Jude 1:24; Psalm 8; John 1:14, 16:11; 1 Cor 15:54-56; Rom 8:15, 15:17; Is 41:8-9; Phil 2:7

STUDY GUIDE

- **What observations can be made about:**
 - The lack of imperatives in this passage
 - Jesus' position relative to angels
 - The authors reference to Psalm 8
 - The statements in verse 10
 - Sanctification
 - Jesus' purpose in taking on flesh, and the consequent effects of it
 - Jesus as "high priest" and his work of "propitiation"
 - The temptation of Jesus
- **What does each of these things mean? What did they mean for the original readers, what do they mean for us now?**

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Use any or as many of these questions as will be helpful for your discussion.

- **What has God spoken to you about this week regarding the sermon or passage?**
- **What does this passage reveal to us about Jesus?**
- **How does this passage enhance our understanding of the Gospel?**
- **What does this text mean for us as a community? Individually? How does it free us to be the people God intends for us to be?**
- **How do we need to live out the meaning of this text in our city?**
- **In what ways do you sense yourself seeking glory?**
- **How is Jesus the fulfillment of God's intention for humanity?**
- **How does the promise of God's glory being conferred upon you change your identity?**
- **Pastor JR said this week that if you're "seeking, doubting or drifting", the best thing you can do is to, "consider, behold, meditate on and think about Jesus". Why is that? Are there any passages in the Bible that support that idea?**
- **"For us to truly love our neighbor means we understand that our faith teaches they will live on even after they die and they will be know eternal glory or eternal shame. How are you seeking to love your neighbor by helping them along to an understanding of the suffering love of Jesus and his grace?"**

"Bearing shame and scoffing rude, In my place condemned He stood; Sealed my pardon with His blood. Hallelujah! What a Savior!."

–Phillip Bliss

IN THE MEDIA

http://sports.yahoo.com/olympics/vancouver/freestyle_skiing/news?slug=jp-mogulskearney021410&prov=yhoo&type=lqns

http://voices.washingtonpost.com/dcsportsbog/2009/04/playoff_reflections_donald_bra.html

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7530768.stm>

FURTHER RESOURCES FOR STUDY AND PREPARATION

- *The Race Set Before Us: A Biblical Theology of Perseverance & Assurance* – Schreiner & Caneday
- *Hebrews: A Call to Commitment* – William Lane

NEXT WEEK'S TEXT

Hebrews 3:1-4:2

40 Days of Prayer
Community Group Weekly Prayer Guide
Week of February 14, 2010

PREPARING TO PRAY

“Christ puts importunity as a distinguishing characteristic of true praying. We must not only pray, but we must pray with great urgency, with intentness and with repetition. We must not only pray, but we must pray again and again. We must not get tired of praying. We must be thoroughly in earnest, deeply concerned about the things for which we ask, for Jesus Christ made it very plain that the secret of prayer and its success lie in its urgency. We must press our prayers upon God.”

-E. M. Bounds, The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer

“And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly.”

-Jesus, Luke 18

THIS WEEK’S PRAYER FOCUS

For the Vision and Direction of the church:

COMMUNITY – That we would experience authentic, life-changing relationships together, see greater expressions of love towards one another in them, and be sanctified by them.

Before praying, you or someone else in the group might set the stage for this focus by sharing briefly about the importance of intentional, God-honoring community and the dire need for the church to be that in our city.

Pray for*:

- Close, intimate relationships to be formed (Acts 2:42, Pr 18:24)
- Mutual accountability to emerge amongst us (Pr 27:17)
- Solidarity during times of suffering and trial (Heb 13:3)
- Those experiencing loneliness and loss to find warm, welcoming community at Apostles (Mat 5)
- Visitors and guests at Apostles worship gatherings (Heb 13:2)
- Growing diversity in our fellowship (Rom 12:6, Rev 5:9)
- Increasing commitment from our church members (Acts 14:26)
- Hospitality (1 Tim 3:2, Rom 12:13)
- The health and vitality of our community groups (Heb 10:25)
- Endurance, encouragement, and unity in love (Rom 15:5)
- The people of Apostles to be a Community on Mission (Mat 28:16-20)

*Consider having some of the above verses opened for reading amongst your group

Praying In Response to the This Week’s Text:

- Praising God that he has created us with his glory in mind
- Confessing that though our sin has disqualified us for glory, we desire it deeply and wait for it patiently in Jesus
- Thanking Jesus for being the fulfillment of what we could not be
- Asking for steadfastness, focus and faith that endures to the end