

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 19, 2006

Passage: Hebrews 10:32-39

Memory Passage: 2 Corinthians 5:9

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 10:32-34.** How does the writer encourage these believers to remember? How does this reminder help to encourage them to persevere?
- (b) What does it mean to be “illuminated” or “enlightened?” Are these believers?
- (c) What *attitude* are we encouraged to have regarding sufferings and persecutions as believers (Matthew 5:11-12; Philippians 1:29; Acts 5:41; 2 Timothy 3:12)?
- (d) How does Paul encourage Timothy to face struggles as a believer (2 Timothy 2:3-7)? Why does *the soldier* endure? What is his motivation? How should this be ours also? Why does *the athlete* endure—what motivates him to persevere? Why does *the farmer* wait patiently—what does he expect to gain from his perseverance?
- (e) *Family:* Read Hebrews 10:32-34 and 2 Timothy 2:3-7. Talk about the cost of following Christ. What are some of the persecutions that believers face today? What does the Lord promise to those who persevere during times of difficulties? Pray for believers around the world who are suffering for their faith.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 10:33-34.** What kinds of difficulties did these believers endure? How did they respond to these difficulties? What *motivated* them to keep on enduring faithfully – what did they *know* (Hebrews 10:34)?
- (b) How were they made a *public* spectacle (Hebrews 11:36; 1 Corinthians 4:9)?
- (c) What attitude did Paul develop about his sufferings in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)? What had he learned in his sufferings (2 Corinthians 1:3-11)?
- (d) Sometimes the suffering was not directed toward them. How did they respond to the sufferings of others (Hebrews 10:33; Philippians 1:7; 2 Timothy 1:16-18; Romans 12:15; 1 Corinthians 12:26)?
- (e) How can *we* become “partners” with each other in our sufferings? What are some practical ways that others have done this for you? How does our sharing in the sufferings of others please God?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 10:33-34. Talk about how we are to minister to others who are experiencing sufferings or persecutions. How should we respond to them? What are some practical things we can do to share with them in their sufferings? Take time to pray for these persons together and ask God to show you how you can become a “partner” with them in their sufferings.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 10:35-37.** What event does he remind them of in verse 37 (also 1 John 2:28)? What warning and reminder does he give them in verses 35-36?
- (b) How did Paul describe his struggles in 2 Timothy 4:7-8? *Why* did Paul say that he was willing to endure; what did he expect to gain? Is this just for Paul or also for us?
- (c) What happens if we give up (“cast away our confidence”)? What will be lost if a person gives up? What warning does John give in 2 John 8? Is it possible to lose rewards that we have gained?
- (d) Why did Moses persevere (Hebrews 11:26)? Read Luke 14:12-14. Why does Jesus encourage his disciples to reach out to those who can never repay them? *When* will they be “recompensed” or “repaid”?
- (e) Who receives these promised rewards and promise? What determines our salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)? What determines our rewards (2 Corinthians 5:10)?
- (f) *Family:* Read Hebrews 10:35-37 and Hebrews 6:10. What have you learned about rewards for the believer’s life? How do they motivate us to live for God even in the most difficult situations? Pray that God would give you a proper view of His rewards for faithful believers and that you would desire to please Him in all things.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Hebrews 10:38-39.** How should a believer live? What pleases God (Hebrews 11:6)? Do believers “draw back”?
- (b) Read 1 Corinthians 11:28-34. What kinds of judgment do these believers receive? How is the judgment of believers different from that of non-believers?
- (c) What two types of judgment are mentioned in verse 39? How are these the same as those in 1 Corinthians 11?
- (d) Skim through Hebrews 11. Make a list of the “heroes of the faith” who failed God or drew back in some way *after* they were following God. Was God faithful to them even when they were not faithful to Him? Was He pleased with them at that point? Did He discipline them for their falling back? Did He completely reject them?
- (e) *Family:* Read Hebrews 10:38-39. Talk about what it means to live by faith. Is God pleased with us when we do not live by faith? Why is faith so pleasing to God? Pray that you will walk by faith in everything you do this week.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-11.** What event in our lives is Paul reminding his readers about? How does this understanding of what happens at death encourage believers who are suffering or being persecuted? How does it encourage any who are going through difficulties?
- (b) What was Paul's confidence (and ours) according to 2 Corinthians 5:6-8? Can a person have this confidence apart from assurance of salvation?
- (c) What was Paul's goal for every aspect of his life according to 2 Corinthians 5:9? How does this echo 1 Corinthians 10:31? What should be our goal for every moment of our lives?
- (d) What else motivated Paul to live so completely for the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:10-11)? What happens in a believer's life when he takes seriously the judgment of God?
- (e) *Family:* Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-11. What should be the goal of our lives? What motivations does God give believers to live for Him? How can we do everything to the glory of God? Pray that your desire would be to be pleasing to God in everything you do.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Hebrews 10:32-39. What does it mean to follow Christ with all your heart? What kinds of difficulties do believers experience because they follow Christ? What motivates you to live for Christ even in difficulties? Pray that God would be honored in worship services tomorrow.

DATE: March 19, 2006

PASSAGE: Hebrews 10:32-39

Pleasing God

“And if anyone draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him...”