

"Making Right Choices"
I Peter 1:10-16
April 29, 2012

1. Set your mind on the truth.
 - Careful search for the truth in the Scriptures.
 - Careful evaluation of the evidence.
 - Careful application of the truth.

"Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and subsequent glories." (1:10-11)

"Therefore prepare your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."(13)

2. Set your heart on the purposes of God.
 - We need His help to discover His purposes.
 - Angels lack complete understanding.
 - The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.

"It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you...by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look." (1:12)

3. Set your life on the holiness of God.
 - God is holy.
 - We are His children.
 - We are to live in His holiness.

"As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Application:

1. Evaluate your time and effort to read and study God's Word. Does it have priority in your life?
2. Seek understanding and application from the Holy Spirit as you read the Bible this week.
3. What does the holiness of God have to do with your daily choices? Ask the Lord to reveal anything in your life that does not match up with His holiness.

Bible Study Questions/Discussion
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1. Take time to share some examples of "bad" choices in your lifetime. Becoming Christ-followers who are "faithful" to the Lord requires a new pattern of decision making. First it begins with setting your mind on the truth of God. How does Peter describe the effort of the prophets in their study and search for truth? (I Peter 1:10)
2. What were the two primary things about the Christ that the O.T. writers did not clearly understand? (I Pet. 1:11) Compare the two contrasting descriptions of Christ.

The Suffering Christ

Ps. 22:1, 16-18
Isa. 53:5-9
Gen. 3:15

The Glories of Christ

Ps. 16:8-11
Isa. 52:13; 53:12
Zech. 14:4
Isa. 9:6-7

3. What does it mean to "prepare your minds for action?" (I Peter 1:13) What has to change in your life or your priorities to do this? (Also 2 Tim. 2:3-5) Discuss the truthfulness of the following quote in your life experience-*"The enemy is in our midst. He has so infiltrated our camp that many simply no longer can tell an enemy from a friend, truth from heresy."* (Charles Colson)
4. The second step to take in order to make right choices is to "Set your heart on the purposes of God." Have you ever struggled in trying to understand God's purposes? Share an example. Was Peter ever confused? (Matt. 16:21-23) How did God help the prophets who were confused? (I Peter 1:12; Matt. 13:17) In what way are the angels of God in the "dark?" Discuss the joy in heaven over sinners repenting. (Lk. 15:7,10)
5. How does the Holy Spirit help us in making right choices? Have you seen this in your life? (Jn. 16:8,13) How does the description for the Holy Spirit as "Comforter/ Helper" help us understand His role in our lives? (John 14:16, 26)
6. The third principle of making right choices is to set your life on the holiness of God. Identify and clarify the teaching in God's Word of God's holiness. (I Peter 1:15-16)
 - Absolute perfection in His nature – Isa. 6:3
 - Absolute purity in His activity – Ex. 15:11
 - Absolute performance with His promises – Ps. 89:35
7. Why should we be holy? (I Peter 1:14-16) What was our identity before we came to Christ? (Eph. 2:2-3) What is our new identity? (John 1:12; Eph. 5:1) What does it mean to "walk worthy of the Lord?" (Eph. 4:1) Pray for one another to know His heart and set our minds on His will for our lives.