

Group Resource

Sermon Notes – Sunday, October 21, 2012

FINDING THE ONE AND TRUE GOD

Message: “The God of Our Hope”

Scripture: Acts 17:29-33

Above all things, God is the foundation of our hope for this life and the life to come because God’s justice will ultimately prevail and how we live our lives each day will make a difference for eternity.

- I. Hope is what keeps us anchored in the midst of life. It is a feeling of confident expectation and desire for the future. We all inherently have some type of hope, the question is whether our hope is founded in something/someone sturdy enough to anchor us through the storms of life.
- II. We are accountable for responding to God’s revelation of himself shown throughout all of creation.
 - a. The Apostle Paul challenged the Areopagus because their altar to “THE UNKNOWN GOD” meant that they knew that there was something more in the world but they were comfortable with doing the least possible work for the maximum benefit.
 - b. In the same way, our culture promotes a practice of acknowledging God without engaging in an effort of really KNOWING Him through a personal relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - c. If God is truly real, then we must submit to his authority, and obey his instructions. God’s main instruction to all of mankind is to repent or change course from living a self-centered life to living a God-centered life.
- III. When the reality of God’s existence settles in – it causes us to make God the foundation of our HOPE for this life and the life to come.
 - a. *We ought to have hope that how we live our lives each day makes a difference for eternity.*
 - b. *We ought to have hope that God is just.* Although we see injustice all around us, when Christ returns, God will restore all things back to His perfect order.
 - c. *We ought to have hope that Christ is advocating on our behalf.* God’s justice shouldn’t scare us but give us hope since we know that when Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, he advocates on our behalf even when we are the ones guilty of injustice.
 - d. *We ought to have hope that the down-payment securing our eternal destiny has already been made by God through Jesus Christ.* God will not abandon His people or His promises. God has shown his commitment to us by sending His Son to the earth in human flesh, allowing Him to die for the sins of mankind, and most of all, raising Him from the dead!

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Let's Talk Notes – Week of October 21, 2012

Message: “The God of Our Hope”

Scripture: Acts 17:29-33

- 1) What vacation or big trip (either as a child or adult) did you enjoy the most?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp? Were you challenged in any area of your personal walk with God?
- 3) This series focused on how mankind creates idols (people, places, things, religions) to replace the one and true God? What are some common idols of our culture? What makes these idols alluring? How you found yourself susceptible to any of these idols in your own life?
- 4) Is there anything about God's character and nature that you find confusing or puzzling? Have you found any answers in the Scriptures to help deal with the dilemma?
- 5) In this week's message, Pastor Joseph reiterated the idea that God is both loving and just. What does it mean to you that God is loving? And just? How does God simultaneously exercise these qualities in dealing with the sin of mankind?
- 6) **Read Hebrews 6:10-12; Luke 18:6-8; Genesis 18:25.** What do these scriptures teach about God's justice?
- 7) Have you ever experienced injustice in your life? How did the injustice make you feel? Is God concerned with the injustices that we face? (**Read** Mark 10:28-31)
- 8) What keeps you motivated to live according to God's standard? Does accountability to God affect your conduct or are you more likely to live recklessly? How do you deal with times in which God's standards seem unfair or unjust to you? (**See** Ephesians 5:1-21)
- 9) Is there anything you are going through right now that your real.life group could be praying for and helping you with, if they only knew about it?