

DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, SMALL GROUPS

What to do right after the service to help “the Word dwell more richly,” within us (Colossians 3:16):

1. Instead of rushing off after the service is over, or talking about the latest news, develop the habit of talking about the sermon with people after church. Start spiritual conversations by asking, “How did the Scripture challenge or speak to you today?” Or “what about God in the message encouraged you?”

2. Encourage someone by sharing things you learned about God from His Word during the sermon. Make note of how your thinking has changed. Don’t let biblical teaching be a one-time event that fades from memory as soon as it is over (James 1:22-25). Choose one or two particular applications to share

[Above from book *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church Member*]

For further Application, Meditation and Conversation on today’s text:

Date: 10/8/2023 “Born That Man No More May Die” (1 Peter 1:17-21)

1. In verse 17, Peter’s words here remind us that *all* parts of our lives are being conformed to God’s perfect standard (though, if we’re honest, it can be difficult to discern those changes as we battle sin and the flesh!). As His children who long to obey and be holy (vv. 14-16), are there any areas of your life that you are tempted to ignore his sanctifying work or treat him or sin casually? (We don’t want to act like spiritually “spoiled children”)
2. Peter says in verse 18-19 that we were ransomed from sin like a slave set free from his captor and shackles. Indeed, a great price was paid for our freedom - Christ’s own precious blood! How would your week look (relationships, work, ministry, trials, etc), if you were daily (moment-by-moment) meditating on this truth?
3. Christ’s sacrifice was not an afterthought - “plan B”. The plan has always been that God would redeem a people for himself through the sending of his own Son in the place of guilty sinners - those “chosen” and loved before the foundation of the world (1 Pet 1:2).
Take time this week to delight in the doctrine of God’s election, and Christ’s substitutionary work! This is the most precious message in the world. Pray together with a saint today, and delight in Christ’s substitutionary role and work on your behalf.
4. How does God’s choosing, and Christ’s willingness to identify with sinners in their condemnation (Isaiah 53:4-5) energize your pursuit of holiness? How might you help counsel someone struggling with guilt and shame over past sins? How does it empower your evangelism?