



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 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: 12/4/2022 – “Crushing idols and counterfeit gods” (Exodus 8:20-9:11)

1. How would you illustrate or explain the concept of crushing idols or counterfeit gods from the sermon to someone who didn’t hear the message?
2. How does Exodus 8:18-19 and v. 22 show the folly of false gods? How might God also show Himself in this way today?
3. How does God’s greater serpent (chapter 7) and first 3 plagues (water to blood, frogs, gnats) show God’s supremacy and superiority over all “gods”? What did the Nile represent to them, and how do we idolize that today?
4. From the 4th plague (flies), what insight do you get from Satan taking the name of ‘lord of the flies’ (Beelzebul, see Luke 11:15-22, also 2 Corinthians 4:4, 2 Thessalonians 2:9). In what ways do you see Satan counterfeit or corrupt what God does, or claim God’s power as his?
5. For the 5th plague (livestock in Exodus 9), there were bull gods for sexuality and a goddess with cow horns for glamour and beauty. How do these idols tempt us today and how should God’s redemption free us from that bondage?
6. For the 6th plague of boils (9:8-11), in light of Egyptian gods of science, medicine, healing and health, how are you tempted to trust in a way you should only trust God? Pray for God’s help to identify idols in your heart and ask for grace to turn from them and trust the true God alone.