



Life Group Study Notes
“The Path: Connect Class”
Ps. Steve Murrell - May 27, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- If you could live in any house of your choosing, what would it look like?
- What specific architectural building is especially appealing to you, and why?
- Have you ever viewed the implosion of a building? Why is it fascinating to see?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Key Quote: The Leaning Tower of Pisa: Good facade, bad foundation.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa provides us with this lesson: Good facade, bad foundation. It illustrates the importance and necessity of laying biblical foundations in everyone's life who wishes to be a follower of Jesus.

The following biblical text provides information about the spiritual foundation that the apostles established as the church began immediately following the ascension of Jesus to heaven and the outpouring of God's Spirit.

Acts 2:36-41 ESV "Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

What is God saying to us through this divinely inspired text, and how should we respond?

First of all, Jesus is Lord. His authority is absolute. Salvation begins when we acknowledge and surrender to him as Lord. He is our Savior, but only insofar as he is

also our Lord. Only 24 times in the New Testament is Jesus referred to as Savior, but 747 times he is identified as Lord.

This truth must cut our heart. We must embrace in our soul the truth that we have disobeyed God and that we are guilty. If we do not own up to this and then go on to do various religious activities, we will not be spiritually changed. We will only have the appearance of belonging to God without actually belonging to him in our hearts.

Our response to God must be repentance. Repentance is turning from our own self-determination to following and obeying God. It is not merely sorrow for having disobeyed God. It is embracing Jesus as Lord and committing ourselves fully to following him.

We must also be baptized as a sign of the change in our life's direction and devotion. We have decided to live for God and be devoted to him. We are commanded by Jesus to begin our walk with him by being baptized.

We are to receive God's gift of his Holy Spirit. We are not called to serve God apart from his presence and help. God's Spirit comes to us not only to dwell in us so that we can know him, but he also comes upon us to empower us so we can effectively serve him.

We are to be added to the church. God has called us into his spiritual family to live as a community. We are not called to follow and serve him alone. God works through people and uses all of us to help one another grow.

Bethel's Connect Class covers all of these important foundational truths. Anyone attending Bethel should take this class to help them in the spiritual walk with God.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How has the lordship of Jesus impacted your life?
- How does the Holy Spirit help you follow Jesus?
- What does it mean to be added to the church?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the gifts of his Son and his Spirit.
- Ask God for a greater revelation of the lordship of Jesus in your life.
- Ask God for a greater awareness of the Holy Spirit's help that is available to you.