



Life Group Study Notes

“The Law of Liberty”

Dr. Rice Broocks - July 3, 2016

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

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

- How much personal time do you spend watching media each week? (e.g., TV, internet, smart phone)
- What is the last book you read? What motivated you to read it?
- What is your favorite book of the Bible? Why?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

James 1:12-15 ESV *Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.*

- God is not the source or the cause of many of our desires or feelings. People foolishly assume that God made them who they are as defined by the collection of their desires and feelings. Scripture teaches us that humanity as a whole is afflicted with a sinful condition. Every person is sinful in nature. Consequently, we all have desires and feelings that are not godly.

James 1:16-18 ESV *Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

- God is only holy and good all the time. He does not do what is sinful, nor does he promote what is sinful. His whole desire for humanity is for us to be like himself. Through Jesus Christ God has provided a way for us to be transformed. We are made new creatures by the spiritual regeneration that comes through Jesus Christ when we turn from our sins and trust in him, surrendering to him as Lord.

James 1:19-21 ESV *Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

- Every sinful inclination is to be put away. Our natural desires and feelings that are dissonant with God's holy character are not to be tolerated, much less embraced and promoted. Instead, we must crucify them. It is through God's truth being implanted into the depths of our hearts that we can experience this change. Neglect of God's Word leaves us powerless to put off what displeases God and to become who he wants us to be.

James 1:22-25 ESV *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.*

- To change we must not only give diligent attention to Scripture, we must also put the truth into practice in our lives. If we don't, we can become deceived into thinking that we are spiritually stronger and more godly than we really are. If we will put God's Word into practice in our lives, we will experience the freedom and joy that comes from pleasing God. And God will bless us.
- To walk in God's liberty we must...
 - Look intently into God's Word.
 - Listen constantly to the Lord's Spirit.
 - Act immediately on what God wants.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related point for discussion.

- Describe your habit of reading and studying God's Word. What helps you develop or maintain such a habit? What hinders you?
- Are you satisfied with your spiritual discipline of Bible study? Is it spiritually enriching? How would you like it to change or grow?
- Is there anything you should be doing or not doing that you have read about in Scripture but have not yet obeyed? Why have you not yet obeyed? What action can you immediately take to begin obeying?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

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

- Thank God for the gift of his Word and all of its riches, power, and wisdom.
- Ask God for further insight, revelation, and understanding in the Scriptures.
- Ask God for help from the Holy Spirit to put God's Word into practice in your life.