



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Lost: Leading People to a Knowledge of the Truth”

Dr. Rice Broocks - October 25, 2015

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

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

- What was one of your favorite subjects in high school? Why?
- If you could go back to school, what would you want to study?
- What is something you know about that you would like to teach others about?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org>

Ephesians 4:17-24 ESV Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The Christian life is not one of reforming one's old life, or of redecorating it, or of encouraging or celebrating it. The Christian life is one of putting aside the old life with all of its conditions, proclivities, and desires which do not reflect the nature and character of God. (God's nature and character are especially revealed in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is recorded for us in the New Testament.) In its place we are to put on the new life that God has already brought about in us through the Holy Spirit when we were regenerated. This happened when we turned to God and believed the Gospel.

The great challenge in our society today is the loss of the knowledge of God: his nature and character, his ways and his plan. Lacking this knowledge people are darkened in their thinking and understanding. They are increasing in their alienation from God and in their hardness of heart. As a result, they also become increasingly entangled in sin.

2 Timothy 2:22-26 ESV So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Lacking the knowledge of the truth people remain ensnared by the devil and inevitably live their lives in a manner that is antithetical to God's will. God's people must live holy lives and avoid foolish arguments that stem from ignorance, if they wish to be useful to God in leading others to a relationship with God. We must know the truth ourselves and also be kind and patient with others as we seek to teach them the truth.

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 ESV *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.*

People are captured by many ideas and views that are not true to reality as revealed by God. Because people are caught, they also behave in ways that are disobedient to God. God's people must know God's truth well, so that they are not also ensnared. We are exhorted to take every thought captive, because one false thought can turn into a stronghold that leaves us in bondage in some way. The truth, however, has power to dismantle all that is false. Therefore, we must grow in our knowledge of the truth.

Romans 1:18-21 ESV *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

All people have an intrinsic awareness of the reality of God. The problem is that our internal propensity to sin causes us to avoid God. Because people are constitutionally bent away from God they wind up suppressing the intrinsic awareness they have of him in order to not be confronted with their sin. When we do this, we inevitably are led astray to other ways of thinking about God, the world around us, and our place in it. We wind up being led into foolish thinking. We justify ourselves instead of acknowledging our guilt and our need for deliverance. God's people must be the light of the world to keep truth shining into the dark places of the human heart and mind.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 ESV *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*

God actually allows deception to overtake people who refuse to love the truth. God's people are a people who love the truth. They care about what is true and what is false, and recognize that God himself is true, always speaking truth and revealing truth to those who have ears to hear.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

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

- What is something true that God revealed to you that has significantly impacted your life?
- What are you actively doing to grow in your knowledge of the truth?
- How are you trying to pass on your knowledge of truth to others?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

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

- Pray that God will stir our hunger for the truth.
- Pray that God will guide each of us in shaping a plan to continue to learn and grow in our knowledge of God and Scripture, and in how this knowledge speaks to our spheres of work.
- Pray that God will open doors for each of us to pass on God's truth to others in ways they can grasp.