

GROWTH GROUPS

June 3, 2012

1 Peter 1:10-12

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever written a “love” letter? If so, describe the emotions that are present when you “put your heart on a page”

Understanding: Statement from “Core Beliefs” document.

“The Bible”

The Bible is the special revelation of God which was inspired by the Holy Spirit in order that people might come into the knowledge and love of God. These inspired words are given not only to reveal God’s love, but to transform God’s people into loving disciples in the world. The words of the Bible were written in various literary fashions, by imperfect men of different cultures and languages. Therefore, it is imperative that God’s church utilizes all the resources of scholarship in order to interpret the meaning of God’s Word for the church today. We believe that the Bible is trustworthy, reliably leading this church to the understandings affirmed in this document.

Questions after reading 1 Peter 1:10-13

1. The Bible is called the “special revelation” of God as opposed to other things (ie. nature, people, etc.) that may also reveal some aspects of God’s nature. Through “special revelation” God reveals things about himself that people cannot know otherwise. What types of things do you think we can know from “General Revelation?” (read Romans 1:19-20 for help) What types of things were the prophets searching for and the angels longing for that God revealed in the “special revelation” (the Bible)?
2. The prophets “searched intently and with the greatest care” based on the belief that we worship a God who wants to be known. Do you believe that God wants to be known by you? If so, how does that condition you as you approach the Bible?
3. The Holy Spirit revealed to the prophets that they would not understand some of the words God gave them to prophesy. They came to understand that this revelation would be understood later; by we, the church. What is it like to read parts of the Bible that you don’t understand? How does that affect your faith? How do we proceed as followers of Christ when we don’t understand why God’s Word says to do or not do; to be or not be a certain way?

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