

small things BIG DIFFERENCE

Week 5

Life Group Notes

Process (what has been taught) - 10 minutes

Colossians 4:2 is about stewardship of the gifts God has given.

- How did you feel when you heard that all of your money belongs to God, He has gifted it to you, to be used for His purpose?
 - How does this change the way we spend our money?

Prepare (for godliness) - 10 minutes

There is no substitute for the “transfer of ownership” - seeing “our money” as belonging to God.

- Read Psalm 8
 - How does the Psalmist portray God? What is true about God in this chapter?
 - What is true about man in this chapter?
 - What is true about God’s gift to man? What is his role and responsibility (note v 6)
- We must not only say this is true, we must also take practical steps to transfer the ownership of our money back into God’s hands.

Practice (of godliness) - 45 minutes

- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4
 - Discuss the circumstances, heart, and actions of the church in Macedonia.
 - What contrast do you see in verse 2
- Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-7
 - Discuss how it relates to this topic of generosity.
- As a group discuss the triangulations from Sunday (For Personal Reflection - 1 Timothy 6:17-18).
- Read Proverbs 3:5-10
 - What is the main point of this important passage?
 - What is the specific application in verses 9 & 10
- Matter of Priorities
 - What are some of the practical challenges and heart issues that keep people from being generous givers? What about you?
 - “Those who don’t regularly give money to their local church lack faith” - Discuss.

Pray (for godliness) - 15 minutes

Before you pray together, if you have time ask the group members to A.C.T.S Psalm 8 in their journals (otherwise suggest that they complete it during the week). Then pray.

Appendix 1

Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In every change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul; your best, your heavenly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul; the waves and wind still know
His voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.

Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in the vale of tears;

Then you will better know his love, his heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.

Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From his own fullness all he takes away.

Be still, my soul; the hour is hastening on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,

When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.

Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Appendix 2

Praying Psalm 37:7 using ACTS

A - The Lord is high above the heavens yet He condescends to us. He comes to us. He is merciful in that He allows us into His presence.

C - I can be too busy. Far too busy. I am often guilty of rushing my devotion time or snatching prayers. I'm also incredibly impatient, this makes me jealous over those who do not walk with God, yet seem to prosper, even when they do it sinfully. I can see that this is just pride.

T - Thank you for your mercy to me - even though I'm not better than the man in this verse, you still choose to come to me
Thank you that your acceptance of me isn't based on my busy-ness but on yours.

S - Please help me to slow down, to be simple and stop rushing believing I can fix things. Believing that I can fix me. Please help me to delight myself in your ways believing that prosperity isn't found in earthly success but in heavenly success.