

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 7, 2004

Passage: Habakkuk 2:18-20

Memory Passage: Habakkuk 2:20

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:18-19. This final woe deals with idolatry. How would you define it? Consider Ezekiel 14:4. Must an idol be a physical one? (b) What do we learn about idolatry from Romans 1:18-23? What does idolatry do to people (Romans 1:23, 25)? (c) Are the sins mentioned in Romans 1:28-32 manifestations of idolatry? In what ways? (d) Consider Galatians 5:16-21. How is idolatry a “work of the flesh?” How is it contrary to the life of faith that we have been discussing in Habakkuk 2:4? (e) What is also considered idolatry according to Colossians 3:5? Is it possible to be idolatrous without worshiping a stone or wooden idol? Explain. (f) Pray Psalm 19:12-14. Ask God to reveal any secret sins in your heart.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:18 again. What does God refer to by the term “profit?” What does God tell Israel about their idols in Isaiah 44:9-20? (b) According to Isaiah 44:21-22, what had God done for Israel and what does He promise them, even in their sin? Is this also true for us today? What does this tell us about His gracious calling and His preservation of His people? (c) What does God call these idols in Jeremiah 16:19? How does this relate to their “profit” or “value?” (d) What are some reasons that people seek idols according to Deuteronomy 32:15-18? (e) What effects did idol worship have on the Israelites according to Jeremiah 18:15? (f) Consider all you have in Christ and spend time today thanking God for all He has given you.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:18-19 once more. What does God say the maker of the idol does? How is this the opposite of the life of faith? (b) Read Psalm 115:1-8 and 135:15-18. What are some differences between idols and God (verse 3)? What is one result of trusting in idols (verse 8)? What does that mean? (c) What are some other differences between idols and the one true God (Psalm 96:4-5; Isaiah 41:22-24; 48:1-5; Jeremiah 14:22)? (d) Read Jeremiah 2:1-5 and 2:11-13. What does this tell us about the nature of idolatry? What picture does verse 13 give of those who follow idols? (e) What does God promise will happen if His people will put away idols (Jeremiah 4:1-2)? Compare this with God’s promise in Habakkuk 2:14. How does an undivided heart toward God affect our witness to the nations? (f) Pray today for someone who needs to hear the gospel. Ask God to show you how your life can be a testimony to them.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Isaiah 45:20-25. What two characteristics of God are mentioned in verse 21? What invitation does God offer to all idol worshippers (verse 22)? What response will all make one day (verses 23)? (b) Who does God say is the only Savior in Isaiah 45:21? Read Acts 13:38-39. What does this tell us about who Jesus is? (c) Where will Israel find its righteousness (or be justified) according to Isaiah 45:25? Why is this significant? (d) Read Isaiah 46:1-4. Whose god is Bel (also consider Jeremiah 50:2; 51:44)? What does God remind Israel about this god? What contrast does He make concerning His own care of Israel (also Jeremiah 10:3-6)? (e) Who *carried* Israel into exile (Jeremiah 29:1-14)? What does God promise to do for Israel? What do Exodus 19:3-6, Psalm 28:8-9; 55:22, Isaiah 63:8-9 tell about God’s care for Israel? (f) What does God promise He will do for us in John 10:13, Ephesians 5:29, and 1 Peter 5:7? (g) Consider a care (concern or worry) that you are facing. Ask God to “carry you” in whatever you are facing this week.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Read Habakkuk 2:20. Where is this “temple” that God resides in? What do Psalm 11:4, 18:6-9 and 33:13-14 tell us? (b) Why does God say that the whole earth should keep silence before Him? (Also consider Job 40:1-5). (c) According to Psalm 8, what “silences” even God’s enemies? How does praise testify to our trust in God’s control? (d) Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. Can even relationships become idolatry? What do these verses tell us? (e) Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What is also the temple of God? How should this affect our lifestyles? (f) Pray that all you do and say today might give honor and glory to the Lamb who sits on the throne!

What have you learned about the life of faith and danger of idols?

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The Danger of Idolatry
“Little children, keep yourself from idols.”