

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 15, 2007

Passage: Acts 16:1-9

Memory Passage: 1 Corinthians 9:22

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 Acts 16:1-9.** What were Paul and Silas doing in Lystra and Derbe (Acts 16:4-5; 15:41)? What impact did this have on the churches?
- (b) How was this being accomplished (Ephesians 4:11-16)? What gifts are mentioned in this passage? What is the difference between these gifts?
- (c) Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. Why does he emphasize the varieties of *gifts, ministries, and effects*? Do all have the same gifts, ministries and results?
- (d) Why didn't Paul *stay* in those two cities since the ministry was so fruitful? What was his desire (Romans 15:17-21)? What does Paul tell us about his desire in 2 Corinthians 10:13-18?
- (e) *Who* prevented him from going into these other regions? How did God lead Paul to Macedonia?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 16:1-9 and Romans 15:17-21. What was Paul's greatest desire? Do all people have the same gifts and the same ministries? How would you describe Paul's ministry? Pray for those that God has called out to be missionaries in areas where the gospel has not been preached.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 16:1-3.** What was Timothy's unique situation? Why would this have been a problem for him in ministry?
- (b) Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised when he refused to do the same for Titus (Galatians 2:1-3)?
- (c) Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. What would you say was Paul's priority? How did that priority affect his life?
- (d) How would this priority be a reason for having Timothy circumcised?
- (e) Did such an approach make Paul "loose" toward sin in his life? Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How did his concern for the gospel affect the way he lived his life?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 16:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. How should our lives be affected by the gospel? How did Paul and Timothy adjust their lives for the sake of the gospel? Are there things in your life that need to be changed so that you can be more effective in sharing the gospel? Pray that the Lord will show you how you can be more effective in His service.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-33.** What principles should guide us in our decision making related to others whose preferences differ from ours?
- (b) When Paul tells believers to not eat meat offered to idols "for conscience sake," *whose conscience* is he referring to? Why should this be a concern (1 Corinthians 10:24, 32)?
- (c) What had Paul told them about concern for others in 1 Corinthians 8:9-13?
- (d) What about our own freedom (liberty)? Should we give in if our freedom in Christ is the issue (1 Corinthians 10:25-27, 29-30; 1 Timothy 4:4-5)? How can we reconcile these two concerns?
- (e) What should be our overall concern about all things in our lives (1 Corinthians 10:31-33)?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 Corinthians 10:23-24 and 1 Corinthians 10:31-33. What should be the primary motivation in everything that we do? What other guidelines can these verses give us about decision making on issues that are not sin? What can we do to be sure we are honoring God in all we do? Take some time to thank God for all He is to us and thank Him for all He has given you.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Romans 14:1-12.** What should be our attitude toward those who hold different practices from us (Romans 15:1-2)?
- (b) Who will we both have to answer to? How should this guide us in every decision (also 1 Corinthians 10:31)? How should this affect the way we respond to brothers whose practices are different than ours?
- (c) Read Romans 14:13-21. What should be our concern in relationship to other brothers who might be offended by our practices? What should be our goal (verse 19; Galatians 5:13)?
- (d) Can we still hold our own convictions (Romans 14:14; Romans 14:16; Romans 14:22; Romans 14:5)?
- (e) Read Romans 14:22-23. How is *faith* a factor in our choices and our actions? What does, "Whatever is not of faith is sin" mean?
- (f) *Family:* Read Romans 14:1-10. What are some practices that Christians disagree about? When should we give up our liberties for the sake of others? When should we not change our practices even though it might upset others? How do we decide when we should restrict our freedom in Christ? Ask God to examine your convictions. Are they ones that would please Him?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Romans 15:1-7.** What should our concern be for weaker brothers? Why should we set aside our freedoms for the sake of others (Philippians 2:4-5)?
- (b) On what basis did Jesus receive you? On what basis should you accept other believers that differ with you?
- (c) **Read Acts 16:6-9 again.** Did Paul wait for a vision to find out what God wanted him to do? What was he doing when he received the vision?
- (d) What often guided Paul's decision making (1 Corinthians 16:8-9)? What did he ask the Colossians to pray for him (Colossians 4:2-4)? *Who* opens and closes doors for ministry (Revelation 3:7-8)?
- (e) Should we wait until we get a vision about what God wants for our lives? Why or why not?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 16:6-9 and Colossians 4:2-4. What should be the priority of our lives? How will we know what direction God is leading us? What should we be praying for? Pray that God will give you an opportunity this week to tell others about Jesus.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 16:1-9 and 1 Corinthians 9:23-31. Why should the gospel be a priority in our lives? How did Paul and his co-workers adjust their lives and limit their liberties for the sake of the gospel? What steps have you taken to make the gospel a priority in your life? How is the gospel affected when we do not consider how our lives affect fellow believers? Pray that the gospel might be clear in the preaching of the Word tomorrow.

DATE: July 15, 2007

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The Priority of the Gospel
"I do all things for the sake of the gospel..."