

Discussion Guide: “The Good and Bad Side of Faith—The Health, Wealth and Prosperity Gospel—Hebrews 11; Part 15”

Let us examine the Scriptures like the Bereans who "received the message with the great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true."

Acts 17:11 (NIV)

November 2, 2003; Pastor Kimber Kauffman, Senior Pastor of College Park Church, continued his message about the health, wealth and prosperity gospel with an opening interview with several from CPC that have been involved with the movement in the past. It was quite helpful to gain an insight into their experience. Pastor then delivered a sermon on Hebrews 11:33 thru 12:11.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the contrasting views of true Biblical Christianity vs. the Health Wealth & Prosperity Movement?

Scriptures: Whole counsel of God vs. selected scriptures distorted for financial gain. (2 Tim. 3:16-17 vs. 1 Tim. 6:3-5)

Knowledge: Source is God's word vs. special personal revelation. (1 Tim. 6:20-21)

Faith: Faith in Christ vs. faith in faith. (Hebrews 12:2)

Healings: Blessings vs. Miracles. (2 Thes. 2:9)

Wealth: Godliness with contentment vs. desire to get rich (1 Tim. 6:6-10).

Prosperity: Seeking the Kingdom of God vs. abundance of possessions. (Luke 12:13-34 and 1 Tim 6:17-19)

2. What should be our response when hardships come our way?

We should endure them as discipline...as training. (Hebrews 12:7,11)

See them as opportunities for personal growth. (James 1:2)

Persevere...follow the example of Christ. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

3. Why does God discipline us?

To learn to obey...as Jesus did. (Hebrews 5:8)

For our good...so we can share in his holiness. (Hebrews 12:10b)

So we bear fruit...a harvest of righteousness and peace. (Hebrews 12:11)

So we may become mature...Christlike. (James 1:3-4)

So that we may be a blessing/comfort to others. (2 Cor 1:3-4)

4. Is God interested in what color you choose for your drapes? If yes, what color would God have you choose? If no, what is he interested in?

God is interested in our relationship with each other. How we interact with each other. How we work together when making decisions. How we resolve our differences. How should we relate/interact/etc. with each other? How do you relate/interact/etc.

5. When we don't think/feel we can endure anymore, what should we do?

Ask God for wisdom, direction and strength...knowing that He will give us the grace we need when we need it. (James 1:5-7, 2 Cor. 12:9)

6. What are some of the results of living out our faith in Christ? On self? On others?

On Self: Draw close to God, develop character, bear fruit of the Spirit.

On Others: Draw close to others, become salt and light, bear fruit as others are drawn to Christ through your words and deeds.