

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 30th August 2015

USING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO GOD'S GLORY

As We Gather

God is the source of all that is good in the world, and His goodness is a barrier against yielding to temptation. What God gives and the way He gives is always good (2 Corinthians 12:1-10).

Reading Scripture JAMES 1 : 17 – 27 (See also Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

Thinking together

In his letter to the Jews spread throughout the world, James emphasised that when the Word of Truth enters a person's life that person is reborn to a new life (John 3:6), although many deceive themselves into thinking that they are saved when they are not (Mark 7:1-8 Matthew 7:21-23).

Mature believers are able to face themselves honestly, know themselves and admit their weaknesses [James 1:19-27]

Because God's Word is truth (John 17:17) Christians have three responsibilities towards God's Word

- Receive the Word [James 1:19-21]
Many arguments / disputes among church members are the result of short tempers and hasty words

How do you hear / read God's word, and what do you hear / read? Discuss
(see also Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23)

How can you prepare your heart for God's Word? Discuss
(see also Mark 7:14-15 & 21-23)

- Practice the Word [James 1:22-25]
Those who attend church, listen to the word and study the Bible often think this is what makes them Christians. They fail to understand that turning what they hear into deeds will bring blessing.

The one who has seen self in the hearing / reading of the word is the one who puts right what is wrong

How are you able to see yourself in God's word? Discuss
(see also Job 42:4-6 Isaiah 6:5 Luke 5:8)

Why does James call the word of God the 'perfect law that gives freedom'? Discuss
(see also Psalm 119:45-48 Romans 12:2 2 Corinthians 3:16-18)

- Share the Word [James 1 :26-27]
True worship has nothing to do with ceremonies, ritual, church going. It means practicing God's word and sharing it with others through speech, service and separation from the world.

As children of God believers are in the world, but not of the world (John 17:11-16)

What does this last sentence mean to you? Discuss

In Closing

Worship ritual is not as acceptable to God as is personal purity and service to the poor.

As children of God, Christians are sent into the world to bring others to Christ (John 17:18).

Is your church inward looking or outward looking?