

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 4th September 2016

COSTS OF DISCIPLESHIP

As we Gather

Throughout biblical history – and no less so in our competitive world – people very easily become more concerned with world / social benefits than they are with sacrifice and service.

Reading Scripture Jeremiah 18:1-11 Psalm 139:1-5 + 12-18 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

Thinking Together

Most of the crowds who followed Jesus were not interested in spiritual things – they had false expectations of Him based on their history, misunderstanding of Him and His teachings, and their interpretation of Scripture

Have you ever had / do you have false expectations of Jesus? Discuss

God's greatest gift to His people is to allow us to get to know Him. He knows everything about us, yet still accepts and loves us (Psalm 1-5 +12-18 Matthew 10:29-32)

Why is this so reassuring to believers? Discuss

In His holiness God could not ignore the debt we owe through our disobedience, for He must remain faithful to His own Law. So in His love He paid the debt for us. Love does not save us, but God's grace saves us - the love that pays a price (Ephesians 2:8-10 Philemon 1-21)

God / Christ always looks for the best in people. Do you? Discuss

There is a difference between being accepted in Christ and being acceptable to Christ.

- Anyone who trust Jesus for salvation is accepted in Him (Romans 4:1-4)
- Disciples must work with God's help to be acceptable to the Lord in their daily lives (Jeremiah 18:1-11 Romans 12:2 & 14:18 2 Corinthians 5:9 Hebrews 12:28 Luke 14:26-27)

Barclay points out that it is possible to be a follower of Jesus without being a disciple

Is a child in Sunday School a follower or a disciple? Discuss

Are all church members disciples? Discuss

Whatever we do in life, if we are to succeed we need to look ahead and count the costs of our decisions / plan / programme before embarking on it.

It is a Christian's first duty to count the cost of following Jesus – of total submission to Him (Luke 14:25-33)

What are the costs of commitment to Jesus? Discuss (see also John 12:23-28)

What has been / is the price of discipleship for you? Discuss

How are disciples enabled to continue their discipleship in the face of difficulties? Discuss

In Closing

To build His Church and to win the battle against sin, Jesus needs committed disciples. He wants no false expectations, no illusions among believers.

Do you identify with Jesus daily?

PRAYER

Faithful God,
you never forsake those who make their boast in the cross of Christ.
Grant us the grace not to rely on our own strength, but to trust you
with all our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit – one God in glory everlasting.

Amen