

Monday, July 5, 2010

GALATIANS 5

When did you first experience freedom in your life? Freedom to do what? Freedom from what? What does it mean to be free in Christ (1)? Why does Paul make such a big deal about circumcision? Since our own efforts and achievements aren't the way to God, what is the way (5-6, 14)? What is our constant battle (17)? If we choose to live by our own efforts, what is our likely outcome (19-21)? See Romans 8:9, Ephesians 4:23-24, and Colossians 3:3-8. Which spiritual fruits are blossoming in you right now (22-23)? Which are still in the bud stage? Do you sense God calling you to change your lifestyle?

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

GALATIANS 6

This chapter reminds us that we will need to be there for each other. What are our responsibilities (1-3)? What is the main point of Paul's teaching on the Spirit-filled life (7-10)? Is there a place in your life where you need to "sow" to please the Spirit, instead of your sinful nature? How does Paul sum up the motives of the false teachers (12-13)? His own motives (14)? Reflect on the harvest you can expect from what you have sown this year. Will it be weeds? Spindly plants? Or a bumper crop? What does this chapter tell you about discipleship and planting seeds? For yourself? For others?

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

2 TIMOTHY 1

Who were your Lois and Eunice, inspiring you to faith (5)? What does Paul mean when he says to "fan the flame" of the gift of God (6)? See 1 Timothy 4:14. What does he remind Timothy to do (8-9)? Do you feel the boldness to tell others about our Lord (8), or are you stuck with a spirit of fear and timidity (7)? Pray that God would fill you with power, love, and self-discipline. In spite of his suffering, Paul affirms his confidence in God's protection (12). Where do you go when your life is difficult and the future looks bleak? See Romans 8:38-39.

Thursday, July 8, 2010

2 TIMOTHY 2

How can we be strong through grace (1)? How can Timothy be sure that the message of Christ will live on (2)? Disciples – including you and me – need to be equipped to pass faith along. Our work, like Timothy's and Paul's, is not done until we help make disciples of others (see Ephesians 4:12-13). What do the examples of the soldier, farmer and athlete teach us about the Christian life (3-7)? How did this encourage Timothy to remain steadfast in his faith during his suffering? What encourages you the most about the trustworthy saying in 11-13? Do suffering and endurance play a part in your life right now? What encourages you?

Friday, July 9, 2010

2 TIMOTHY 3

How does the list of sins in 1-5 sound like our world today? Of the sins listed here, which one is the root of all the others? What do verses 6-9 tell us about the character, danger and fate of false teachers? Why does Paul recall the tough times for Timothy (10-11)? In verse 12, Paul tells Timothy that everyone who wants to live a Godly life will suffer persecution. What does that mean to you? Have you ever been misunderstood, criticized, or hurt by someone because of what you believe or how you live? God calls us to continue to live for God, the only One we need to please.

Saturday, July 10, 2010

2 TIMOTHY 4

What are Paul's final instructions for Timothy (1-5)? How does Paul sum up his life and ministry (6-8)? Because of this, he could face death calmly. Is your life with Christ preparing you for death? How do Paul's words challenge you? Are you fighting the good fight no matter what suffering and persecution you might face? How will you build this scripture into your life? How will you share the good news of Jesus Christ honestly and faithfully? Spend some time in prayer bringing all your concerns and hopes to Jesus.

Sunday, July 11, 2010

PSALM 4

David knew that God would hear and answer those who are faithful and devoted to God. God hears and answers, although the answers may not be what we expect. Inward joy comes from knowing and trusting God (7). It brings us peace. When we rejoice in God's protection, we can place our confidence in him. Spend time reflecting on what it means to yield your rights, needs and feelings to God.