

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Ephesians 2:11-22

Sunday, December 9, 2012

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What are some of the differences it makes for someone to live each day without Christ?

Those without Christ do not look forward to a sure and certain joyful future with Christ after death. They live without the conscious knowledge of God helping them in times of trouble (see especially Ephesians 2:12). They do not have the certainty that God is with them at all times. They may not live with thankful hearts for all that God does for them, and they may not see any need to honor and obey Christ by the way they live.

2. What are some of the differences it makes for someone to live each day with Christ?

True followers of Jesus Christ not only have Christ with them, but they also have Christ living within them. He teaches them the meaning of the promises of God in the Bible and how these promises apply or can be applied in this life. They can live with true joy and thankfulness each day and expect to enter joyfully into heaven to meet Christ face to face. They love Christ and look for ways to please Christ each day by what they do with the talents and gifts God has given them.

3. What are some of the ways Christ brings peace to those who love and trust Him?

He brings peace of heart and mind to the believer as they think about God and meeting God face to face someday in the future. Christ casts out fear of the future and fills the true believer with His peace and presence. Sometimes He can bring peace between and among those who have a variety of disagreements and even between those at war with one another.

4. How do people have access to God the Father?

Through Christ believing Jews and Gentiles have access in one Spirit to God the Father (see Ephesians 2:18).

5. What difference does it make when a follower of Jesus Christ learns that he or she is growing with others into a holy temple in the Lord?

They will seek to live each day in a worthy manner, a manner worthy of the Lord and all those who love and seek to serve Jesus Christ. They will seek to maintain a Christ-like spirit and relationship with all those who are growing with them into a holy temple in the Lord.

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