

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Philippians 3:1-11

Sunday, January 20, 2013

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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 truths of Scripture that Christians need to study repeatedly?

Christians need to continue studying and learning more about God the Father and living as the children of God. They need to keep studying the facts about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Savior. They need to keep learning about the Holy Spirit and the work of the Holy Spirit in helping people come to faith in Jesus Christ and live by faith in Jesus Christ according to the Scriptures. Christians need to keep reminding themselves of the love

of God in providing Jesus Christ as the only way of salvation and how they can best express their love for God in their daily lives.

2. What might some “evil workers” in the church teach in churches today? Do you feel comfortable saying that people who promote and teach falsehoods or ideas contrary to the Scriptures are “evil workers”? Give a reason for your answer.

False teachers try to persuade others that the Bible cannot be trusted in everything it teaches or commands. When someone teaches falsely in the church, they are doing evil because they are misrepresenting the true God and His ways, and they misleading people away from the truth of God and about how to please God. Whether some teachers know they are teaching falsehoods or not, they are working evil in the lives of others and that makes them evil workers. They are worse than evil workers when they knowingly teach what is false in order to mislead others.

3. Why should we not have confidence that we are saved based on our race, background, or behavior?

Jesus came to save us from our sins, from making evil choices, from the eternal consequences of having made evil choices. We have all sinned, and our race, our background, our cultural upbringing, or any good choices we may have made or may make in the future will not save us from our sins or their eternal consequences.

4. What false confidence that they will be saved when they meet God and God judges them do some people have today?

Some people think that they will be saved from judgment when they compare themselves with others and think they are better. Some people may think that the good they have done will outweigh the bad they have done on the scales of justice; therefore, they will be saved. Some think that they will be saved on the basis of the good works that they have done instead of faith in Jesus Christ, Who inspires us and leads us to do good works in His name and for His glory in serving others.

5. How can someone have confidence that God will not condemn them after they die?

They can come to Jesus Christ and trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. They can have confidence that God will not condemn them because the Holy Spirit inspires love for Jesus Christ and God the Father within them. They can have confidence before God when the Holy Spirit leads them to praise, thank, and glorify God the Father in Jesus Christ for all God has done, does, and will do in the future. We can have confidence because the Holy Spirit inspires us to call God, "Abba, Father," which gives us peace with God. See Romans 8:15-17: "For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit

that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.” See also Galatians 4:6: “And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”

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