

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Philippians 3:12-4:1

Sunday, January 27, 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 does this mean to you, “Christ Jesus has made me his own”?

It means that Jesus Christ considers me personally as one of His cherished possessions, and this means more to me than anything I possess.

2. What benefits does a follower of Jesus Christ enjoy because Jesus Christ has made them his own?

One benefit is Jesus Christ will take care of me as one of His cherished possessions and He will not lose me or misplace me. Another benefit is the way He will treat me; He will take good care of me. He will fill me with His Spirit to help me live in such a way that I can bring Him much joy and satisfaction as one of His possessions.

3. How difficult is it today for Christians or church members to say, “Do as I do and do as I say, because I imitate Jesus Christ”? Give a reason for your answer.

It is difficult because it would make us sound very arrogant; furthermore, most of us are aware of how far short we fall of our ideal way of living as a follower of Jesus Christ. We might prefer to say that we try to imitate Jesus Christ and try to do what Jesus would do in life (in every situation?). We would not want to be hypocrites and say, “Do as I say, not as I do.”

4. What can happen to a person who says they believe in God and Jesus, and who wear a cross around their neck on a chain, but who set their minds on earthly things?

Paul wrote that they are enemies of the cross of Christ; therefore, their end is destruction. Furthermore, they might mislead many away from true faith and obedience to Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

5. What do you need to do to live each day as a person who knows that their citizenship is in heaven?

I need to declare my allegiance to Jesus Christ as my Lord and King each day; much as I might say a pledge of allegiance to my country or my flag. I need to consider the fact that Jesus Christ deserves my loyalty and obedience as my King; and I am subject to the laws of His heavenly Kingdom. I need to remember that as one of His subjects, I have many benefits that only a citizen of heaven can appreciate and enjoy, and I need to give thanks to God for all of His benefits and promises for the future.

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