

THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM
Sermon: Christianity My Way
Sermon: 28.2.09
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Small Group Study for Week of March 1- 6

The Big Idea: God's view on the Christian life and our views are often different. This study will look at a few differences between what many see as what Christianity is and how God actually wants us to live.

Christian Myth One:

God wants us to act happy all the time even when life is falling apart. Along with this myth is the idea that Christians shouldn't have to many problems in their lives.

Group Reads: Psalms 102 (another good lament is Jeremiah 20)

Comment: This passage is what is called a lament. It is a type of prayer that makes up a large portion of Biblical prayer and is when an individual or group complains to God about many and various issues.

Questions:

1. Why does David complain to God?
2. Have you ever felt like offering a complaint to God? What did you do?
3. Why does God want to hear our complaints?
4. There seems to be a struggle with David to say something positive amongst the negative, what do you make of that?

Group Reads: Psalms 103

5. Compare with Psalm 102
6. What do these passage say about authenticity?

Comment: Real Christianity is about being authentic. Not to pretend that life is great all the time. We can come to God with our praise and our complaints – both are needed for us to grow.

Questions:

7. Why do we need to be able to express how we really feel about a situation good and bad to grow?
8. Why would the devil not want us to express ourselves to God and other Christians who are close to us and we trust?

Christian Myth Two: I don't have to spend regular consistent time with God to be saved.

Comment: There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make Him love us less. He saves us by what He has done. We can do nothing to earn even one part of salvation. We are saved, by accepting what He has done and

what He wants to do in our life. We do this by asking Him to forgive us for our separation from Him and then having a life long, life changing relationship with Him.

Group Reads: John 17: 3

Comment: Knowing God is more than an intellectual statement that says I want God in my life. It is a life long, life changing relationship with God. At CCCC as our mission expresses it, we are “Changing and Growing Lives With Jesus Christ.”

Questions:

9. Why don't you think people take seriously the reality that they need to be spending time with God if they want a relationship with Him?
10. What does CCCC offer people to help them maintain a relationship with God outside Sabbath worship?
11. Anything else you get out of this text?

Christian Myth Three: Doctrine is not important to a Christian

Group Reads: 2 Timothy 4: 1-4

Questions:

12. Paul believes doctrines are important, why don't so many of us?
13. It is so easy to say, no one can know all the truth, and that there are so many views on various doctrines so I don't have to study them? How do these texts help answer those concerns?
14. Anything else out of those texts

Conclusion to The Big Idea: We have discussed three Christian myths. The reality is that real Christianity is about living an authentic life, acknowledging the good times and the bad. Real Christianity is more than saying we love Jesus and attending church, it is by having a relationship with God. Finally, I am responsible for what I know, not what others believe. I have to own my knowledge, lack of, or reason for not obeying God in studying His teachings.

Question: What does God want me to do as a result of this study?