



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - February 5, 2012

Sermon

Responding to Today's
Issues:

*"No More Religion in
School--How Does This
Affect Us?"*

Deuteronomy 6:4-8
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 2/6/12
Deuteronomy 6:4-8

Jesus used these words from Deuteronomy when he was asked what was the greatest commandment. These verses sum up our religion in a concise yet challenging way. Verse 7 commands us to teach these words to our children. This is our responsibility. In fact, one translation of this Hebrew verses suggests that we are to "drill these words into our children!" We need to teach our children about God!

Tuesday 2/7/12
1 Timothy 2:8-15

These words instruct us not only to pray in our homes but everywhere; even in public. Many people think that religion is between "me and God." This is part of the understanding since we can have a personal relationship with Jesus. However, much of what we do in worship is communal in nature. Even the sacraments of baptism and holy communion are celebrated together, rarely alone. Are we afraid to profess our religion in public? Are you willing to pray in public?

Wednesday 2/8/12
Psalm 1

What do you think about? What keeps you up because you just can't get enough information about it? The psalmist suggests that we should meditate on God's word day and night. If we are to obey God's commands then we need to know exactly what these commands are; then we can follow them. Studying God's word is not an option for believers. It is what we do. Reading the Bible is one of the best ways to grow in our faith. Are you reading the Bible every day, at least a little bit? Daily devotionals and reading through the Bible in a year are great ways to keep our nose in the Bible. Read the Bible today and then commit yourself to reading the Bible at least a little bit every day this week.



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<p>Things to do this week in response to the sermon...</p> <p><i>Should the Bible be read in schools today? Why or why not?</i></p> <p><i>Should prayer be illegal in public school? Why or why not?</i></p>	<p>Thursday 2/9/12 Mark 4:1-20</p> <p>Where did Jesus teach? The synagogue? Yes, but where else did Jesus teach? Here, in this scripture passage, we read that Jesus taught by the sea. Could it be that there are teachable moments throughout our lives and in many unexpected places? Even though Bible reading was not done in my high school, we had a teacher who lead a Bible study every morning before classes began. How can we be creative to teach others the word of God? Where can we teach?</p>
<p><i>Now that public schools often do not include Bible reading and prayer, how does this affect us?</i></p>	<p>Friday 2/10/12 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28</p> <p>“Pray without ceasing...” When was the last time you prayed? Sometimes we get out of the daily habit of prayer and find it hard to pick up the habit again. Who is to blame for this? How can we commit ourselves to daily prayer and keep up with it? Who can help us? I’ll pray for you, will you pray for me? Prayer is the primary way we communicate with God and there are simply no excuses for not praying. We cannot blame anyone but ourself if we are not praying daily. Today, make it a point to pray to God, and then commit yourself to “pray without ceasing.”</p>
	<p>Saturday 2/11/12 Hebrews 5:11-14</p> <p>Are you attending Sunday school? Are you participating in a Bible study? These are wonderful opportunities that many people just don’t take the time for in their lives. This past Wednesday we had eleven of us in Bible study. Consider joining us this coming Wednesday at 10am in the Lounge. We are also trying to grow our Sunday school here in the church. Are you participating in a Sunday school class? Here is your invitation to start! Get involved and you will learn a lot about the Bible, your faith, and just how much God loves you! Get involved this week!</p>