



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - October 28, 2012

Sermon

Are You Bearing Fruit for
Jesus:

*“Are You Using All Your
Talents?”*

1 Peter 4:7-11

by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 10/29/12

1 Peter 4:7

Be ready. This is good advice for just about anything we face in life, in sport, in school, at work, etc. Are you ready? Peter wanted his readers to be ready so he advised self-control and sober-mindedness. Oh, and a lot of prayer, too! His advice for self-control and sober-mindedness would be helpful for the sake of their prayers. This is still good advice for us today. Time is short, so be ready!

Tuesday 10/30/12

1 Peter 4:8

Love is often overlooked. Peter says to keep your love for one another fervent, because love covers a multitude of sins. Isn't this true? "Love Story" was a movie from the '70s and one of the famous lines from that movie is, "Love means never having to say your sorry." It's not that we don't make mistakes it's that love chooses to overlook them! Love is the antidote to many of our human problems. When we love one another there is a special bond between us and we are connected in a special way. Are we loving one another properly?

Wednesday 10/31/12

1 Peter 4:9

Hospitality is missing in some churches today. It is sad, but some churches only care about their own members. This is flat out wrong. Whenever we turn inward we become short-sighted and often tend to start complaining. Think about the conversations you've heard recently in the church--at the greeting time in worship, during meetings, in Sunday School, in Small Groups, at UMM & UMW, etc. Are we complaining? Or are we committed to showing hospitality toward guests who come into our church or group? This is vital to the growth and health of any church, both in Peter's day in our own day!



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

List your talents and skills.

Now list how you can use these talents and skills in your daily life.

Pray to God, giving thanks for the talents and skills you were given by God!

Thursday 11/1/12
1 Peter 4:10

When we receive a gift, what are supposed to do with it? Peter is clear here: God has blessed each one of us with talents and skills. We first need to discover and acknowledge this gift or talent. Do you know your talents and skills? Then, after acknowledging them, we are to use them! One of the saddest things to see is someone who is gifted in some way but chooses for whatever reason not to use these gifts and talents. Take some time today to recognize and acknowledge the unique gifts that God gave you. Then find ways to use them every day!

Friday 11/2/12
1 Peter 4:11a

Have you ever experienced an adrenalin rush? Maybe you were working hard one day and had to continue working far past quitting time, but the adrenalin kicked in and you easily completed the tasks required after hours. God's grace is somewhat like this, only much, much stronger! When we do what God wants us to do, there is a power and grace far beyond our human potential. So Peter advises us to speak and serve with the strength that God supplies! Draw on this strength and know that One who is bigger than we is supplying this strength.

Saturday 11/3/12
1 Peter 4:11b

The goal of drawing on God's strength and grace is so that in everything we do God will be glorified in Jesus Christ. When we do what God desires us to do, God is glorified and people begin to recognize that there is a Power beyond our own. Actions often speak louder than words. When we do what God wants us to do, people see that God is alive and active in this world! We can and should do good things in Jesus' name. And whenever we do, God is glorified and honored!