

Small Group Questions from March 15, 2020

Read Text: Acts 20:24

1. Discuss your overall reaction to the message from Sunday. Did anything “stick with you” throughout this past week?
2. Bob stated that the gospel deals with our shame. What is shame, how would you define it? How does the gospel deal with our shame? Why does self-punishment fail at atoning for our sins? Why does the punishment of others fail at atoning for our sins?
3. Paul speaks of his previous life of religious duty as rubbish. What does it mean to view those things as rubbish? What do we hold on to as important and valuable that is actually rubbish? Why is knowing Christ more valuable than all the things we cherish?
4. Paul is motivated in ministry by the love of God. How can God’s love motivate us? Why does God’s love not seem to motivate us as it ought? What can we do to be driven more by love than by any other motive?
5. What can/should God’s love for you motivate you to do? How can you live this week motivated by God’s love (don’t think about what you will do, but how you can cultivate right motives)?

Small Group Questions - March 8, 2020

How to lead and be led, pt.1

Acts 20.17-24

1. A week ago, the sermon text focused on encouragement. Think over this past week. What did you do that was intended to be an encouragement to others. How did others encourage you?
2. The first point in this week's sermon stated, "A gospel community thrives when good leadership is valued." We have probably all experienced settings where there was a lot of tension between those who were leading and those who were being led. What are some of the reasons why people tend to be distrustful of leadership in general?
3. If you have been part of some of those tense situations, how did it affect you? Did you learn anything from it?
4. What are some examples that you have seen of leaders who care for one another?
5. How has that (question 4) affected you?
6. (Note to discussion leader: This question as a series of questions, only ask one at a time and then after it is discussed then move on to the next one.) One of the values of good leadership is being able to provide people a pattern to follow. Paul lists the ways he lived as an example to follow. The following questions are to be answered by the group members about one another not about themselves. Who is personal and transparent? Who is servant-based and humble? Who has been faithful through trials? Who has been faithful in teaching? Whose life has been a powerful example?
7. Go back and reflect now as a group on these qualities: personal and transparent, servant-based and humble, faithful through trials, faithful in teaching, and powerful example. Which of these are qualities you would like to grow in?
8. Is there anything else that stood out to you from the sermon that you would like to share?