

Series: What is Real?

Message: God's Word: Burden or Blessing?

May 19, 2013

BURDEN OR BLESSING?

Have you ever felt like God's commands were more of a burden than a blessing? Let's look at the facts!

1 John 5:1-12

THE PASSAGE (1 John 5:1-5)

1 John 3:22-23 & John 14:6, 1 John 2:9-11 & John 13:34-35, 1 John 2:3-5 & John 14:21

If I want the *Father*, I need the Son.

If I genuinely *love God*, I'll also love His kids (all of them).

If I genuinely *love God*, I'll also obey His commands.

GOD'S COMMANDS: BURDEN OR BLESSING?

What does the *Bible* say?

1 John 5:3-4, Matthew 11:28-30, Joshua 1:7-8, Proverbs 3:5-7

God's commands are for our benefit – they're never *arbitrary*.

Don't add to what is true and enough.

Matthew 23:1-4

The only smart choice.

Proverbs 3:5-6/ Romans 12:2

Food for thought

Welcome to spring session of Life Group's. Use the following questions to continue the conversation, have a great meeting.

MY STORY

Can you think of a time in your life when you did things God's way despite the fact it made no sense and God proved His way was best? If so, describe it.

An essential part of doing things God's way is learning what the Bible says. Mark which of the following best describes how you are doing or feeling about learning God's Word (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Going through the motions | <input type="checkbox"/> Only reading the Bible to do Life Group homework |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent | <input type="checkbox"/> Miss it when I don't read it |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needing more direction | <input type="checkbox"/> Bored |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frustrated | <input type="checkbox"/> Learning lots of helpful things |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Confused | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know where to begin | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not getting much out of it | Other _____ |

Digging Deeper

1. One place to read about the blessings of obeying God's commands is in Psalm 119. Read the following verses and write down what David, the author, says regarding...

...the benefits of knowing and obeying God's Word.

Psalm 119:9, 98-100, 105, 165

Was there a time in your life when you experienced one of these benefits from reading or hearing God's Word?

...his attitude towards God's Word.

Psalm 119:24, 72, 97, 120

How do you think David developed such a positive attitude towards God's Word?

Are you in a real authentic relationship with Christ?

Questions we have covered

Basic Morality: Am I walking in the *light* I have? *1 John 1:6-7*

Humility: Will I admit that I'm a *sinner*? *1 John 1:8-10*

Sin: Am I making progress or *excuses*? *1 John 3:6-10*

Obedience: Am I obeying His *commands*? *1 John 2:3-5*

Love: Am I forgiving those who *wrong me*? *1 John 2:9-11*

Priorities: Am I primarily pursuing *eternal* or *earthly* rewards?
1 John 2:15-17

Response: Do I respond to the Bible as God's Word or *good advice*? *1 John 4:6*

Holy Spirit: Am I being changed from the *inside out*? *1 John 4:13*

PRAYER TIPS:

Use these prayer tips to talk it over with God:

- God, I receive your word as a blessing to my life. Your commands are for my benefit and prosperity.
- Father, I will not add to your word but accept your word as whole and complete for my life.
- I desire to know you more Father; I will daily seek your word in order to know you in a deeper way; I look forward to you speaking to me through your living word.