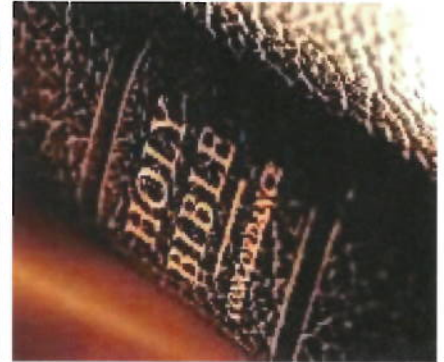


Mission Team



Know your bible

Well we finally finished the book of Revelation in our Sunday morning bible study. It was quite a challenge for all of us. We knew in the beginning it would not be easy to cover all 22 chapters and come away with a complete understanding of the end times. I certainly learned a lot about God's plan for the future and I encourage everyone, believer and non-believers to study and know as much as possible about what is going to happen during the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Let me warn you the book is very difficult to understand because it is highly symbolic and to understand the symbolism you need to have a good understanding of the Old Testament.

Before I started this study I asked a lot of questions from elders and others that may have experienced this challenge in the past and of course I discussed it with pastor Bob. I got words of encouragement, words of warning and two words from pastor Bob. Of course I was a little disappointed that I didn't get more detail from our pastor. But after eighteen weeks of study and a lot of discussion I've learned to appreciate those two words, "be ready," just be ready for the coming of Christ and you don't have to worry about what is going to happen after the rapture.

Why did I go through this study? I was not sure at first, I asked myself that question. It was not my plan, but I learned real quickly that I did not know much about the end times. I also learned how important it is for all of God's people to know what the future holds and like Brother Bob said "be ready."

I was not sure what our new study would be, I had been out of the cycle for 18 months. Jack Blanton was kind enough to put the new series of books in a box for me and told me where to find them. As I opened the box and saw the title my hindsight kicked in and I could see God's work. He had taken me and our class through Revelation and now we have a new study called "Created for Relationships." So we go from the end times in Revelation to the beginning in Genesis. What better place to start after studying about the end of God's creation to the beginning of his creation.

Our first lesson is about our relationship with God. We learned that God has revealed himself as a personal God. He created human beings in his image with a unique capacity to live in a relationship with each other and him. This is about God's love for each one of us, no one left behind, He loves us and Jesus taught us to love one another.

In Matthew 22: 36-40 when Jesus was being test by the Pharisees they asked this question.....
³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”³⁷ Jesus replied: ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”^[b] ³⁸ this is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[c] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

The study continues on relationships with self, spouse, children, parents, friends, enemies, neighbors/community, employer, government, church leaders, fellow Christians and non-Christians.

This is a great study, there has been some conflict and turmoil in my extended family off and on for years. This study will give me a better understanding of how to deal with these issues. I intend to use God’s gift to me to try and mend these types of conflicts.

This is the introduction to this study....Do you love to live? I do. But what if we never live fully until we love? “Friendship,” Kevin De Young says, “is the most important-least talked about relationship in the church.”¹ Schopenhauer compared humans to porcupines huddling together in the cold. We want to get close to each other but it is painful when we do. This is not the way it is supposed to be. When we look at the world, we still see God’s hand at work. But we also see brokenness in the ways that we treat each other – in marriages, in relating to our parents and raising our kids, in relating to our neighbors – there is so much that is broken. Today we can choose to live in right relationship with God and others.

This is my personal invitation to come join me and the class in this study. I believe it will impact our lives in a way that will make our families, our church, our community and our country a better place. Sunday morning 9:00 am in the fellowship hall.

You’re Brother in Christ;

Rob

