

Life Group Notes 8/4/20245
Chaplain Bill Pelletier You Are Not Your Own Week 4

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. **If you have observations or questions arise**, feel free to send me an email with your comments or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 8/4. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes include:

1. [On translator's choices.](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

Chaplain Bill begins by quoting Psalm 90: [10](#)*The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty if we are strong—yet their pride is but labor and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.* [11](#)*Who knows the power of Your anger? Your wrath matches the fear You are due.* [12](#)*So teach us to number our days, that we may present a heart of wisdom.*

1. What do you see?
2. What fear is God due?
3. What happens when you number your days?
4. Bill asks the question, "How much time do I have on this earth, and what am I going to do with that time?" Answer him.
5. Bill says, "Our time is not our own. We were made to serve." Explain.

Bill lists reasons why we are here: "We were made to serve. We are created for God's glory. We are created for His love. We are created to worship Him. And looking on the time, before we go to spend eternity with Him, our purpose for time is found in our desire."

1. Can you think of other purposes for which we were created?
2. How does our own desire help us understand our purpose?

He brings the focus of his message on God's purpose for time and our use of time. He says that God is calling us, equipping us and rewarding us for serving Him by directing our use of time. Look up John 9: [3](#)*Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God would be displayed in*

him. [4](#)While it is daytime, *we must do the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work. [5](#)While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

1. Was Jesus' time limited? Why?
2. Check the context of this passage: to what “works of God” is Jesus referring?
3. In v. 4, Jesus says, “We must do...” *Other authoritative manuscripts ([see footnote 1](#) below) say, “I must do...” How does the choice the translator makes change what is being said?
4. Discuss the urgency due to time that Jesus is emphasizing here.
5. How does time become our own test of purpose?
6. What does Bill mean when he says, “Our time is not our own?”

Look up Genesis 1:[26](#)Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness, to rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, and over all the earth itself and every creature that crawls upon it.” [27](#)So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. [28](#)God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and every creature that crawls upon the earth.”

1. For what purpose did God create man?
2. What is man's design? What is his delegated duty?
3. How does being fruitful and multiplying become a blessing?
4. How does subduing and ruling become a blessing?
5. For whom is subduing and ruling a blessing? Who benefits the most?
6. How did they do? What came into the world due to their failure?
7. Look again at [Psalm 90:11](#), above. Is there a connection between Adam's failure and this precept of fear?
8. Look at Proverbs 9:[9](#)Instruct a wise man, and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning. [10](#)The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. [11](#)For through wisdom your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life. What do you see? How does one prolong his days?
9. How does it help to actually know the Holy One? How do you get to know Him? Do you have a testimony to share?
10. Compare this verse with Proverbs 1:[7](#)The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
11. What does it take to gain wisdom and discipline? How much time? Why do fools despise wisdom and discipline?

Bill continues, “Then God sent Jesus, the last Adam, the Son of the Living God, Who came in the flesh, defeating sin and death on the cross. He brings life to everyone who believes in Him, bringing glory to God, because of His love, so that we could worship Him forever. All this was accomplished by His service. Jesus served the Father until He had fulfilled His purpose on this earth in the fullness of time.

1. What do you see?
2. How did Jesus complete Adam's delegated duty? How did He “...become fruitful and multiply?” How does He now “...fill the earth and subdue it?” Describe His dominion today?

3. How did He pass the requirement to be fruitful and multiply onto us? Cite the verse where He passed this task on to us? (Hint: (Don't peak unless you have to) Read the last verses of Matthew 28) How does the "Great Commission" echo Adam's first commission?

Bill continues, "And we have been made new in him. We've been given gifts and talents. His Holy Spirit dwells in us, and we are sent out into the world to be like Jesus, to go out and serve. Look up Mark 10: [42](#)So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that those regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their superiors exercise authority over them. [43](#)But it shall not be this way among you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, [44](#)and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. [45](#)For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

1. What do you see?
2. How does Jesus change the definition of having "dominion?"
3. What is the purpose of a ransom?
4. How does this help us understand the purpose of His coming?
5. Does this help clarify your own purpose? Explain.

Bill says, "We were formerly slaves to sin. We used our time to serve ourselves...to chase our passions and pursue our own goals. But now, we are free! Jesus has set us free and given us a choice. Now we have a choice, to walk after the Spirit or to walk after the flesh. Look up Galatians 5:[13](#)For you, brothers, were called to freedom; but do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh. Rather, serve one another in love. [14](#)The entire law is fulfilled in a single decree: "Love your neighbor as yourself." [15](#)But if you keep on biting and devouring one another, watch out, or you will be consumed by one another. [16](#)So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. [17](#)For the flesh craves what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are opposed to each other, so that you do not do what you want. [18](#)But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

1. Look at the call in verse 13. What do you see?
2. If we are **called** to be free, what is the hope of our calling? Is there any assurance that we can be free?
3. Look at John 8: [30](#)As Jesus spoke these things, many believed in Him. [31](#)So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. [32](#)Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." [33](#)"We are Abraham's descendants," they answered. "We have never been slaves to anyone. How can You say we will be set free?" [34](#)Jesus replied, "Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. [35](#)A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son belongs to it forever. [36](#)So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. How does what Jesus says here compare to what Paul told his friends in Galatia above?
4. Define "freedom" as Jesus describes it here? How **free** is "free?"
5. Put the promise of Galatians 5:16 in your own words: What will you gain dominion over if you "walk by the Spirit?" How free is the freedom Paul describes?
6. How does one "walk by the Spirit?" Do you have a testimony?

7. In verse 14 above, Paul says, "The entire Law is fulfilled in this command, 'You will love your neighbor as yourself.'" How does loving your neighbor become an expression of your freedom? What will the effort do to your use of time?
8. Does this define what it means to "...walk after the Spirit?"
9. Paul tells his friends in Philippi in Philippians 2:³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty pride, but in humility consider others more important than yourselves. ⁴*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.* How does this become a basis for freedom?
10. How does this help you become "great" in Jesus' terms described above?
11. How does surrendering your time in serving one another fulfill all the laws and the prophets?
12. How has surrendering our will to God become a delightful challenge and no longer a burden?
13. Why is the "gospel" good news?
14. Go back a few verses in Galatians 5:⁵*But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the hope of righteousness.* ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. All that matters is faith, expressed through love. Explain. These are not just words. How does faith express itself through love?

Bill says, to walk by the Spirit we have to "...surrender in real time. Every moment, every hour, every day. We have to say, 'Yes! Your will not mine,' because our time is no longer our own."

1. How does giving our time become a tangible, practical expression of our love?
2. Look at 1 Corinthians 13:⁴*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.* ⁵*It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs.* ⁶*Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth.* ⁷*It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.* ⁸*Love never fails.* Does this description of love have any meaning at all outside the context of our relationship with others?
3. How are you doing?
4. Bill clarifies: "Giving of our time through serving doesn't save you, because we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone as revealed in His Word alone." If Bill is right, whom does our serving benefit?
5. If you are the only bit of Jesus your neighbor will ever see, what does your neighbor see?
6. If serving doesn't get us to heaven, how does serving end up benefiting us? Explain.

Bill lists three reasons for serving:

- **The first reason: Serving fulfills us like nothing else.** You were made to serve. You were created and designed to serve God. Look up Ephesians 2: ¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance as our way of life.
 1. What do you see?
 2. Review: How does serving define "having dominion?"
 3. What does God's workmanship do? Can it fail?
 4. When were your works prepared for you that you should complete them?
 5. How does God's way become our "way of life?"

6. What happens when we do not take the steps God planned for us to take?
7. Bill says, "If you do not chase the things God planned for you, you're going to miss something. There is going to be an emptiness somewhere in your life, and you will know it, because you were made for a purpose." Explain.
8. Do you have a testimony?
9. Bill says, "You might not be called like David, to take a throne and lead a nation. You might only be called to save that one who is called to take a throne and lead a nation." Discuss this. Does God call you for your sake? Or does God call you because you alone can reach the one you're purposed to bring the good news to?
10. Who is the greatest in the kingdom?
11. Pastor Mark last week spoke of how it is impossible "outgive God" in terms of money. This week, Bill says, "You give Him you time. You can't outgive God." How does this precept work in terms time? What is the return?
12. Bill continues, "When you give God your time He fills you up and He overflows you with His love, His Spirit and His blessing." Does this answer the question? What else can you draw from the return?
 - **The second reason: Serving uncovers and determines your purpose, but you won't discover this until you pursue it.** Look up Jeremiah 29:¹¹[For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope.](#) ¹²Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.
 1. What do you see?
 2. Bill asks, "Are you seeking God with all your heart? Answer him.
 3. He says, "If you want to seek God with all your heart, here's what you've got to do. You have to dump all your plan." What does that mean?
 4. Bill says, "God's plan is always better." What do you know?
 5. Bill says, "You have to say to God, 'My life is your life. My plans are your plans, and my goals are your goals.'" What will change when you do this.
 6. The Bible invites us to "...taste and see that the Lord is Good." Bill says, "I've tasted and seen. I want more." Do you have a testimony?

Bill shared his testimony about leaving his lucrative career to go into full-time ministry. Pastor Mark told him, "All the unknowns, the money, the transition the jump, are scary until you see that you were designed for this." That was the word Bill needed to hear. When you jump on board with God's plan, you get peace.

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. What did you think when you heard this?
 - **The third reason: We have to do this together.** Look up 1 Corinthians 12: ⁷*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. We are given gifts, not for self-gratification, but to build one another up.*
 1. Bill evoked the work at Grace. What have you seen here of this principle? How well do we work together?
 2. What has that taught you? Do you have a testimony?

3. How do you know that this effort is intentional and sincere?
4. Bill went on to highlight the concerted effort of the different ministry teams on a Sunday morning so that worship can be had in an atmosphere of comfort without distraction. What strikes you when you come on Sundays?

Bill's last blast—Thirty-four other reasons to serve:

1. To let our light shine before men so they might see our good works and glorify the Father Who is in heaven.
2. It fulfills the Law.
3. It fulfills the Great commission.
4. It fulfills prophecy.
5. We imitate Christ.
6. We reflect His character.
7. We prove our identity in Him, by our love for each other.
8. We show the world that we're His church, the Church of Jesus Christ, the Living God, and not just a country club.
9. We fulfill the plans that He has for us.
10. We become obedient to His Word.
11. We build up the Body of Christ.
12. We confuse the world by the way we serve and the way we love our enemies.
13. We overcome the world.
14. We save a dying world.
15. We are His ambassadors in the world.
16. We prepare for Jesus' return. We're the new John the Baptist.
17. We're doers of the world.
18. We are not self-deceived.
19. We are overcomers. We overcome guilt and doubts.
20. We confirm our election and make it sure.
21. We make ourselves pleasing to God.
22. As a response to His love, we serve Him.
23. We prove we are walking in the Spirit.
24. We serve and love our neighbors as ourselves.
25. We do to others as we would have them do unto us.
26. We do for all the one anothers as we serve.
27. We bear fruit for the kingdom.
28. We are transformed by our faith in action.
29. We make ourselves an example.
30. We exercise our gifts and talents.
31. We become equipped for every good work.
32. We are fulfilled as believers.
33. We do as we are designed to do.
34. We become united in our common faith and mission as a church body.

How complete is this list? Take a minute. Can you think of any others? Bill says there are hundreds. The serving theme pervades the narrative of the book. Bill says, "The world tells us we need to balance our faith...with our family...with our work time...with our social life." He says, "That's wrong. You don't balance your faith with other aspects of your life. You balance your faith as your life. You have to put Jesus first. Put God

first and your life and all of your responsibilities will find the balance with what He asks of you. Ask, 'God, how much time do I have for this?' 'God how much time to I have to serve you?' These are not separated pieces to be managed separately in your life. You have one life in Christ."

1. What's your response to this?
2. What do you think when you hear this?
3. Bill says, "Daylight doesn't last. You cannot serve two masters." Whom do you serve? Do your own words match practice?
4. What happens when you begin to number your days?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Make a list of plans you have, and ask God if these are His or yours.
3. Make a to do list and a not to do list from number 2 above.
4. Say this week, "My life is your life. My plans are your plans, and my goals are your goals." Write down what comes to you.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On translators' choices**—In the Berean Standard Translation that I used above, John 9:4 says, "*4While it is daytime, *we must do the works of Him who sent Me.*" Other translations will read, "*I must do the works...*" A brief explanation might help explain this strong discrepancy without taking the deep dive that can easily be taken with a single click on the web. The New Testament was transmitted to us first with ink written on parchment made from papyrus, and then on leather. Bound editions soon followed, each meticulously hand copied from previous copies. Scribes copied using ancient and exacting methods to ensure that the transcription was error-free. This makes the New Testament of the Bible, even as the Old Testament before, among the most accurately transmitted ancient texts in all history. With that in mind, now recognize a key principle in textual criticism: The authority of a manuscript is not ascribed to it due to that manuscript's antiquity but to its adherence to the majority texts. Transcriptions found to be with error were always disposed of, usually burned. Some of these transcriptions have been found. Discrepancies in translation will arise when one translator will prefer one collection of ancient manuscripts over another. If you are aware of the King James controversy, you already know that one school of scholars prefers exclusively the texts used by those translators of the King James Bible, known as the *Textus Receptus*, or received text. The most recent discoveries, manuscripts uncovered in the nineteenth century, are deemed less satisfactory because

of the pronounced differences. Most modern translation rely heavily on these most recent finds. Fortunately for biblical scholarship, the impugned differences in all manuscripts being used involve less than 2% of the text, and most often the variations involve grammatical endings and are trivial. This one in John allows you to make a choice and find your own preference.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Psalm 90:10-12
Tuesday: John 9:3-5
Wednesday: Genesis 1:26-28
Thursday: Proverbs 9:9-11
Friday: Proverbs 1:7
Saturday: Mark 10:42-45
Sunday: Galatians 5:16-18

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.