

Life Group Notes 9/1/2024

Pastor Mark Warren You Are Not Your Own Week 6

[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, feel free to send me an email with your comment 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, 9/1. 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 Emmanuel, a quick look at the Hebrew language.](#)
2. [A personal note, the scribe's mother.](#)
3. [On the shema.](#)

*****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. ***

Pastor opened today's message with a Word from the Spirit saying, "God sees you."

1. What does that mean?
2. How does He see us?
3. To what degree are we known?
4. What is hidden from Him?
5. How is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom?
6. In Isaiah 7:14, where the virgin birth is foretold, Jesus' name is prophesied to be Immanuel, God is with us. How significant is this name?

Review 1 Corinthians 6: **19** [Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;](#) **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body.

1. What do you see? Review what we have said in previous messages.
2. To what degree are we known? To what extent?
3. How am I not my own?
4. What struck you in Mark's message this week?
5. Was this new?
6. How are our children not our own?

7. Is this good news for you? Or bad news?
8. Explain.

Look up Psalm 127. Read the whole Psalm:

1Unless the LORD builds the house,
its builders labor in vain;

unless the LORD protects the city,
its watchmen stand guard in vain.

2In vain you rise early
and stay up late,

toiling for bread to eat—

for He gives sleep to His beloved.**3**Children are indeed a heritage from the
LORD,

and the fruit of the womb is His reward.

4Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
so are children born in one's youth.

5Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.

He will not be put to shame

when he confronts the enemies at the gate.

1. What do you see?
2. How does having children compare to building a house and watching a city?
3. Who builds the family? Who builds yours?
4. Who watches over them?
5. Look at verse two. What is the promise?
6. How has your own sleep been?
7. What size family does God seem to favor? Explain.
8. What is His reasoning here?

Pastor Mark speaks of Stephen Covey's book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People: Powerful Lessons in Personal Change*. (<https://www.amazon.com/Habits-Highly-Effective-People-Powerful/dp/0743269519>) One of these habits, says Mark, is "Begin with the end in mind."

1. How does prophecy work? Whose mind is being revealed?
2. Look at Isaiah 46: **10** [declare the end from the beginning, and ancient times from what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and all My good pleasure I will accomplish.'](#) What does it mean to "...know the end from the beginning?" How is the end to be known? Have you heard of the book? Read it?
3. Where do you want to go? What is the destination?
4. What goals have you set? What end do you have in mind?
5. How does this apply to your children?
6. When Mark declares that "...our kids are on loan," what does that make you think?
7. How does this thought change the way we raise them?
8. Does it change the way we pray for them?
9. What changes? Do you have a testimony? (See [footnote 2 below](#).)
10. What does our culture encourage families with children to do? How well does that work?

11. What worked for you when you were a child? What can you glean from your own childhood?
12. Jesus asks in Matthew 16, “[24](#)Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. [25](#)For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. [26](#)What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?” Answer Him.
13. How does this apply to child rearing? How are your own children connected to your soul? Look up Proverbs 22: [5](#)Thorns and snares lie on the path of the perverse; he who guards his soul stays far from them. [6](#)Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. Explain.
14. Think again of what Stephen Covey says above. Describe this end for your children.
15. To what degree are you responsible to your children?
16. He continues, “[27](#)For the Son of Man will come in His Father’s glory with His angels, and then He will repay each one according to what he has done.” What does this make you think? What does “repay” mean?
17. What can we be doing that will help us help to prepare our own kids?
18. How does our own responsibility change through the years, as our children grow and mature? Which stage was the hardest for you?

Pastor laid out three strategies.

- **You have been given the responsibility to train your children.**

1. Look back at Proverbs 22 above. What is your responsibility? How do you do this?
2. How discouraging is it when the children walk away from the Lord?
3. What does the promise say? How sure is the promise?
4. Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:[23](#)*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [24](#)The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it. [25](#)Brothers, pray for us as well.* Discuss what you see here.
5. To what degree did Paul need prayer as well? Explain.
6. Speak these words over you children in prayer, as Paul is speaking it over his own spiritual children, the Thessalonians. Apply the promise to your children.
7. Is the One Who promised still faithful? What is the promise?
8. Is there any reason to lose hope? ...to stop praying?
9. Mark says, “There is one thing in which you can have confidence: that you have planted seeds in them that will not go away.” Can you know this? How?
10. Look at Mark 13: [Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.](#) How can you know this?
11. Look what Balaam told Balak in Numbers 23:19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? Answer Him.
12. Look up Deuteronomy 6: [4](#)Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One. [5](#)And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. [6](#)These words I am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts. [7](#)And you shall teach them diligently to your children and speak of them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. [8](#)Tie them as reminders on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. [9](#)Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates. What do you see?

13. Look at Psalm 19: [7](#)*The Law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is trustworthy, making wise the simple.* [8](#)*The precepts of the LORD are right, bringing joy to the heart; the commandments of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.* [9](#)*The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true, being altogether righteous.* [10](#)*They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.* [11](#)*By them indeed Your servant is warned; in keeping them is great reward.* Why would you tie the Word as a reminder onto your hands and on your forehead?
14. Have you ever posted Bible verses on mirrors or refrigerators? Explain.
15. Have you ever done this to remind you of promises related to your children? Do you have a testimony?
16. Look at what Paul tells the Colossians in chapter 4: [6](#)[Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.](#) Assess your conversations. How are you doing? With your own children? How did you do?
17. Think of conversations around the family table. Is there any evidence in your conversation that might get you convicted of being a Christian, if being Christian would become illegal and you were arrested and so charged?

- **Pray for and also with your children.**

Pastor Mark emphasized that it is good to pray for your children, but it is also good to pray with them.

1. Explain.
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. What is the best time of day.
4. Look up James 5: [16](#)*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail.* [17](#)*Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.* [18](#)*Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.* What do you see? How encouraging are James' words? Why? What did Elijah have that you don't have?
5. What do you have that Elijah never had?
6. What is the promise of answers to our own prayers? At what point do we give up, if we keep James' words in mind and write them on our forehead?
7. According to James, how much power do your own prayers have? Do you believe this?
8. Look up Paul's prayer for the Colossians in 1: [9](#)*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,* [10](#)*so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,* [11](#)*being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have full endurance and patience, and joyfully* [12](#)*giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.* Compare Paul's prayers to yours.
9. Describe an answer to this prayer among the Colossians. What will it look like among your own children and family.
10. Do you have difficulty praying for your children?
11. Can Paul's prayers teach you to pray?

- **Release your children back to Jesus**

Pastor Mark says the greatest gift you can give your children is not to control them as they become older, but you turn them back to the Lord. The Lord is more able to control your children's situation and circumstances than you are.

1. Explain. Our children have free choice. What does God control, exactly?
2. Paul says in Romans 2 that it's the goodness of God that leads to repentance. How does this help us when we pray?
3. Do you have a testimony?

Look up 1 Samuel 1: [26](#)And she [Hannah] said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. [27](#)For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. [28](#)Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD."

1. What do you notice? Who is lending whom to whom in Hannah's eyes?
2. What was Samuel's life like?
3. Are our children lent to us by the Lord? Or do we lend them to Him? How does this work?
4. At what point can a parent say, "I've done my part?"
5. Pastor says, "They were never yours in the first place...and you've done your part." What does turning them back over to the Lord allow?
6. At what point can this be done? How do you know when you've done your part?
7. When do you stop praying for them? (When do you stop caring? Ever?)

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Ask yourself, "What is God asking me to do?" Write down answers and plan to take first steps.
3. Note the words you speak around your family. Note what impact your words have.
4. Pray Paul's prayer from Colossians 1 above over your family each day this week. Write down any changes you see.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. **On Emmanuel, a quick look at the Hebrew language**—The Hebrew language has, due to the Bible's influence, infiltrated the English language in ways often imperceptible, and the additions, like the name "Emmanuel" (or "Immanuel"), reveal some of the intricacies of Hebrew grammar. The name Emmanuel is a compound word that begins with the preposition, "em," which means "with." The "-u" is the first-person plural particle, "us," and "El" is the proper title, God. Since there is no verb "to be" in Hebrew this proper name becomes a sentence: "With us [is] God," or God is with us. (To note, the same construction is seen in the well-known word *Hallelujah*. *Hallel*, the Hebrew verb that means "to praise exuberantly, to jump up and down and spin around violently as if moved by a violent emotion, as when the Patriots score the winning touchdown," is combined with the particle -u, us, and God's name in shortened form, *YH*. Hence, "Let us praise YHWH with all our heart, mind, soul, strength and emotions.")
2. **A personal note, the Scribe's mother**—Pastor spoke today of releasing your children back to God, and I wanted to share my own personal history by way of testimony. I struggled as a teenager, and was both rebellious and irascible, difficult to endure. My mother bore the brunt of my own rebellion, because I feared my father more. Although I was attending Young Life, a balanced, energetic Christian youth organization three times a week, I was at home less than encouraging. My youth group leader at one point even asked my mother why she allowed me out of the house, because I was, in his eyes, the "...biggest hypocrite in the group" which, at the time, numbered in the hundreds. My

mother told me years later, "I knew you were opening the Bible there, and that could not be a bad thing for you in your state." At one point, she confided her struggles with me to her very best friend, who advised her not to give up on me. She said, "Just remember how cute he was as a little boy. That's the real Peter. The Peter you see is not the Peter he wants to be." With this in mind, my mother turned to Jesus and renounced me, saying, "He's not my son anymore. He's yours. You're going to have to deal with him. I give up." Her attitude toward me changed drastically. She reminded me each day how much she loved me. She found ways to show me, and, subsequently, my own life began to change from that day. God's hand was on me to teach me in ways to which I can attest to this day.

3. **On the Shema**— (Scribe's warning: Theologians and especially Jewish scholars do not agree with what you are about to read. Please proceed with caution.) The Shema is one of the primary Jewish confessions of faith in their religion. For the monotheistic Jewish faith, it is the recognition of the singular nature of God, that He is One, and that there is no other. Many Christians see the confession this way, and join wholeheartedly in the confession, ignoring the paradox written into the language itself. No Jew recognizes the paradox, and therefore many Christians have been taught to ignore it. However, it is always appropriate to analyze grammar to recognize the subtle nuances. Transliterated, the *shema* reads like this: *Shema Yisrael, YHWH Elohenu, YHWH achad*. "Hear, oh Israel. YHWH (God's ineffable, unutterable name, mentioned over 6000 times in the Old Testament, and invariably translated as "the LORD") our GODS, YHWH [is] One." *Elohenu* is a compound noun: It is the plural form of *el*, *Elohim*, with a suffix, the first person plural possessive particle, *nu*. (See [footnote 1 above](#).) The Hebrew language always ascribes majesty to God's title, *El*, by writing of God in the plural form. ("In the beginning, *Elohim* [God] created the heavens and the earth.") Although it is plural in form, there is no question of the unity and singularity of the Godhead. He is One. The Shema emphasizes this, "'Gods' is not *Gods*, but One Only God," and yet recognizing the obvious paradox is discouraged. Interestingly, however, this same passage in Deuteronomy reminds us further that we are to "...love YHWH your *Elohim* with all your heart, soul and strength." Folks who know and love God as the Trinity do well to know and recognize Him here, to love Him as Father, and Son and Spirit, eternally One.

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: Isaiah 7:13-15
Tuesday: Psalm 127
Wednesday: Matthew 16:24-27
Thursday: Proverbs 22:5-6
Friday: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-25
Saturday: Numbers 23:19
Sunday: Deuteronomy 6:4-9