

ISSUES:

Self-Confidence

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:5 *Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

Lesson: Read Revelation 21:1 – 22:5

- What does it mean to be confident?

One definition of confidence is “reliance on one’s circumstances”. We can certainly mess that up if we focus on the circumstances of this world. We base our confidence on our finances, our health, our families and so many other things that can all be taken away from us in an instant. Our confidence in those things is a sham. It’s a lie that distracts us from a relationship with God as Satan tries to convince us that we don’t really need God. It’s not real confidence if it can be taken away and/or if it’s based on the circumstances of life. Psalm 20:7 - *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*

- Where does our confidence come from?

Our confidence comes from the Word of God and from the Holy Spirit. He continually reminds us that we are children of God. 1 John 3:1 says *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called Children of God – and that is what we are!* Romans 8:17 reminds us that we are co-heirs with Jesus Christ! We have been promised that we will live eternally with Him. 2 Corinthians 5:5 tells us that we have been given the Holy Spirit as a **guarantee**. Forget the FDIC – our confidence is based on the Bank of Heaven and we have already been given a deposit of the Holy Spirit! Philippians 1:21 says *For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.* We can be confident that Christ will use our lives for His glory and if we die – even better! We will be with Him for all eternity. Read the Heaven brochure again in Revelation 21-22. Really think about what the future holds for those that believe in Jesus Christ. Pastor Tim once summed it up as – Presence of God – Absence of Sin

- Are you confident?

Romans 10:9-10 says *If you declare with your mouth “Jesus is Lord” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* Remember the analogy of the Marines. It’s all or nothing. You can’t pick and choose which parts you like or which orders you want to obey. Count the cost before you make this commitment – or before you “re-up”. Luke 14:33 – *Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.* The reward we are confident of outweighs BY FAR the cost of following Jesus.

- How should we respond?

We want to please Jesus. John 14:23 - *If anyone loves Me, he will obey my teaching.* The bottom line is obedience. Not delayed obedience or partial obedience, but OBEDIENCE. When we get distracted or busy or forgetful – let’s call it what it is – sin, then we are not obeying. Being a Christ-follower means running up the down escalator. It’s tough and you’re going against the flow of traffic. If you stop to look around, you’re heading downhill again. **Not making a conscious choice to follow Jesus is a choice not to follow Him.** Even though it’s hard, God gives us strength and This is why you’re in a small group. Hebrews 10:24-25 – *Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* It’s a lot easier to run up the down escalator when we do it together!

Daily Devotional Reading:

- Day #1: Philippians 4
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #2: Colossians 1
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #3: Colossians 2
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #4: Colossians 3
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word:

- Day #5: Colossians 4
 - Focusing on God and responding to His Word: