



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

MARCH 26, 2017 - PASTOR LIONEL YOUNG

Keeping a Clear Conscience

Acts 24

THINK & SHARE Questions to get your group talking

Is there a future event that you are looking forward to? What emotions are you experiencing waiting for that day?

What is vision and why is the best vision compelling enough to “pull” us into the future? Can you state your vision for what kind of Christian you want to be when you die?

STUDY & DISCUSS Questions that invite you to dig deeper into the week’s material & your own life

A. In what ways or in what areas of life does the church around the world need the message of hope found only in Christ? In what ways does the church in Valparaiso need this message right now? How can churches in a community and around the world be a help to one another in this regard?

B. Read 1 Corinthians 5:6-10. Hope and judgment rest side by side in this passage. For Christ-followers there is anticipation for when we will see the Lord face-to-face, yet there is also something important not to miss about how we live our lives right now (v. 9).

How does putting your hope in God change the way you live today?

How does knowing that judgment will come motivate you in a helpful way?

C. Pastor Lionel gave 3 examples of things for which we will be held accountable according to Scripture:

Christian freedom – What are some ways we can misuse our Christian freedom or use it foolishly or selfishly? What do Paul’s questions in Romans 14:10 mean for us?

Words – Read Matthew 12:36. Why are the words coming out of your mouth so important that they are worthy of being judged by God?





What we have been given – Why do Christians sometimes settle for investing their time and energy in things that yield a low return? What are ways that we can sharpen our conscience to better discriminate between things with temporal value and things with eternal value?

PRAY & COMMIT Questions for your breakout prayer time and challenges for the rest of your week.

A. What questions do you have about judgment, the “degrees of rewards” for the righteous (Christians), and the punishment for the unrighteous? Are there concepts you struggle to accept or embrace? Take some time as a group to talk about these questions and share the truth of Scripture with one another.

B. What we do now matters. It matters to those around us, to our church and community, and to our future. And of course it matters to God. Our accountability before God should lead us to find earthly relationships that include gospel accountability. We need others to guide us and to help shape our will so that we make wise choices. Who serves you in this way and speaks into your life? Whom do you serve? If you cannot point to anyone, would you consider actively seeking out a more mature Christian that you could develop an accountability relationship with?

MORE Questions related to themes and theology in Acts

There are at least two judgments that people will face. First is the judgment of whether you trusted Christ or not (Matthew 25). Second there is the judgment of what you have built your life on (1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10). Believers in Christ pass out of the first one but are called into account for the second. Why do you think there is this second judgment? What purpose does it serve? What effect might it have on how a person experiences heaven?

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