

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

Knowing God

Personal Relationship - Knowing His Ways and Thoughts

Isaiah 55 verse 1-11

"Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. 2 "Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. 3 "Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, according to the faithful mercies shown to David. 4 "Behold, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 "Behold, you will call a nation you do not know, and a nation which knows you not will run to you, because of the LORD your God, even the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you." 6 Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the LORD, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. 10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

God's Covenant With Israel

Jeremiah 31 verse 33

"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Jeremiah 31 verse 34

They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Haggai 1 verse 2

"Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'This people says, "The time has not come, even the time for the house of the Lord to be rebuilt."'"

God refers to **This people** because of their disobedience. We shall all know Him but we need to wait on Him. Our No. 1 priority is knowing God.

Isaiah 55 verse 6

Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

To seek Him is to have a desire, which leads to devotion, through faith in Him. Then comes discipline, which leads to delight. When we know Him our desire increases and we can understand how great and wonderful He is. Paul counted everything else in his life as irrelevant.

Philippians 3 verse 7-16

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

God had looked at their minds, thoughts, hearts and actions and He decided that they (we) need to get to know what He thinks and does. Christ came to demonstrate His Fathers' thoughts and ways to us.

Weighing the Cost

Pruning

Multitudes were following Jesus. He turned and spoke to them of their commitment to Him.

Luke 14 verse 25-35

25 Now large crowds were going along with Him; and He turned and said to them, 26 "If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. 27 Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. 28 For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him,

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

30 saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' 31 Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten thousand men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty thousand? 32 Or else, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. 33 So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions. 34 Therefore, salt is good; but if even salt has become tasteless, with what will it be seasoned? 35 It is useless either for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

The words of verse 26 are strong ones and many of His disciples did not follow Him after He spoke like this concerning discipleship. The cross is the very substance of our life in Christ. Our flesh has to die on the cross. We cannot live in the shadow of the Cross, we need to decide; do we live in the shadow or do we live in the substance?

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. 3 He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Do we want the shadow of death or the shadow of life?

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

The Cost

James 4 verse 8

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Trials, persecution, suffering and misunderstandings are all part of our life experiences. Rejection, rebellion and hurts are sometimes our daily diet. If we don't draw from God we will go under the pressure. Life, our diaries, activities, etc. can keep us from relating to and hearing from God. Family, friends, work and hobbies can all deflect us from our relationship with Him. He wants to fill our hearts, satan will fill our days, our minds, and our time if we are not aware of the tactics he uses. A Public life is a dangerous pathway to walk, Shepherds beware! But God has made it possible for us to come into His presence.

Ephesians 2 verse 17-18

AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 3 verse 14-19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 From whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

Hebrews 4 verse 16

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

Hebrews 10 verse 19-22

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

1 John 3 verse 21-22

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

Prioritising our Lives

Christians cannot function effectively for God unless our inner spiritual life is in order. Jesus needs to be Lord of All.

Luke 10 verse 27

And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself."

Jesus said that this is the greatest commandment, the very foundation of life. I can only do this if I know Him. Not *know* of Him, not *know about* Him, but know Him personally, hear Him, through His word, obey Him, according to His word. Do we want to be living in the shadow or living in the substance? There are no resignations, retirements or withdrawals from commitment. Elisha burned his plough and killed his Oxen so he could follow the Lord.

Luke 9 verse 57-62

As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

60 But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." 61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say goodbye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Knowing Christ - Not Just About Him (The Shadow and the Substance).

There is a song, The Greatest Thing in all my Life is Knowing Him, Loving Him, Serving Him.

Note: *This was one of Dennis' all-time favourite worship songs.*

John 7 verse 37-39

Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Inside of us is where Christ dwells, inside of us is where the Holy Spirit flows. Christ in us, us in Christ, the Spirit in us, us in Spirit.

Living in the shadows is to live in the knowledge, not in the Spirit. The Spirit gives life.

Matthew 7 verse 13-23

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. 15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So then, you will know them by their fruits.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

***SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.**

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

21 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

Luke 6 verse 45

The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.

A Prescription for Healthy Christian Living

To prescribe is to impose authority. A Doctor prescribes from his training and knowledge of medicine and his knowledge of various diseases. A prescription is the written direction for the composition of medicine or treatment. Christ has imposed a prescription that can and will keep us in a state of spiritual health and healing for the whole person, from the inside to the outside.

The 3 Main Symptoms for us to watch out for are:

- High (spiritual) blood pressure
- Hardening of our arteries/hearts (our doctrines)
- Closed mind disease. Know all's with minds already made up

These symptoms, if they persist, should be taken to the Great Physician at once. He (Jesus) will impose a prescription. But there is a caution attached to the prescription, it shall be used with diligence and with delight, which will lead to joy.

High (Spiritual) Blood Pressure

The symptoms are:

- Irritability, bad temper
- Intolerance, impatience
- Lethargy, laziness

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

- Being critical, being judgemental
- Rebelliousness, having a strong self will

The symptoms result in no inner peace, no inner joy, no inner appetite which leads to the flesh boiling over.

Hardening of Our Arteries/Hearts (Our Doctrines)

This is any doctrine that is in conflict with what Jesus did and taught and recorded in Scripture. Unloving, lack of love, broken relationships either with Him or others.

Matthew 22 verse 37-39

And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. 39 The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'

John 13 verse 34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Unforgiveness

Matthew 6 verse 14

For if you forgive others for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

If you don't forgive others bitterness, pride and unbelief will result.

Mark 16 verse 14

Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

Being Strongly Opinionated Concerning Non-Spiritual Things, Like Food and Drink.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

Romans 14

Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.

2 One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only. 3 The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him. 4 Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God. 7 For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; 8 for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. 10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. 11 For it is written, "AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL GIVE PRAISE TO GOD." 12 So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God. 13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this - not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way. 14 I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean. 15 For if because of food your brother is hurt, you are no longer walking according to love. Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died. 16 Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.

Discipleship Priorities -The Shadow and the Substance. No record of if this being shared with SCF*

19 So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. 20 Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense. 21 It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles. 22 The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.

These Bible notes have been provided as a resource by Peacemakers International. They were produced by Dennis Marshall who founded our organisation, about which you can find more information at

http://www.peacemakers-international.com/who_we_are/

*SCF Stevenage Christian Fellowship, where Dennis Marshall was Pastor.