

May 25, 2020

Dear Sunday School Class,

How wonderful it was to gather over Zoom to be in Sunday School! There is nothing as encouraging and uplifting as gathering with those who love Jesus to talk about Him, and how to live for Him. Our time together has been a real blessing, so thank you to Matt for setting Zoom meetings up for us, and thank you to all of you for being a part of it, whether in person or in spirit.

I am sending my notes for the wrap-up of the 5 weeks of our study. Please don't think they are all-inclusive, because I am sure you had thoughts and ideas of your own that were triggered by the Scriptures. We only had about 35 minutes together each week, so we had to speed through the book, but the major emphasis of each chapter was really challenging and worth thinking about. The bottom line was the question on the front of the book which is, "What Do You Allow To Define You?" Each of us could answer that differently, for sure. But we can each grow in allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us to a closer relationship with Jesus, and the strength to act and speak about our faith in our loving, merciful Savior to the world around us.

Stephen and I watched a message by David Jeremiah about Satan and his ways of attacking God's children, and it was very good. He said that Satan uses 3 things to "derail" us; "deception, division, and destruction." But Dr. Jeremiah reminded us that we don't have to fear Satan, because Jesus will protect and guide us in all things. We need to examine the things that come at us from those three "D's" and pray for the strength to overcome any deception in our lives, or any division with other Christians that we are part of, and any destructive words or actions from us that hurt others. We desperately need to yield to Jesus to overcome these things. Since we know He is our assurance in these days of chaos and the threat of evil and disease, we can rely on His grace to help us get through it victoriously.

It is encouraging that the Session is working and praying about our worshipping together somehow again. But we still have Pastor Seng's messages on Facebook to listen to for encouragement and blessing, and we can certainly communicate with one another via the telephone and the computer. It is such a good thing to hear his messages, and to visit with one another and know we are praying for one another.

Speaking of praying, many of us will continue to fast and pray on Thursdays. We still need rain, and many still need physical touches from Jesus. Remember Crystal Merfeld, Ron Williams, Pastor Seng, Pastor Seng's brother-in-law, and I would like to add Sam Ramos to our list as he is having some health struggles. If you know anyone else who needs prayer, please call Pastor Seng or me so we can call for prayer for them. We also need to cover our faith family in prayer for discernment, safety, unity, and commitment to prayer and Bible reading.

Blessings to each of you and your families. If God leads us to start Sunday School with another study sometime this summer or fall, we will get the word out. In the meantime, stay strong, and stay healthy. Never forget that Jesus told us "Be of good cheer for I have overcome the world."

Judy & Stephen