

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon

(For Personal Study, Review, Meditation and Mid-Week Group Discussion)

March 24, 2013

- I. **Getting to know you** ~ *Questions for Group Discussion:*
 - a. What's better – watching NCAA March Madness or The Masters (PGA Golf)?
 - b. What's better – watching the NBA playoffs or the beginning or Major League Baseball?
 - c. What's better than all of the options given above?

- II. **Getting into the Bible** ~ *Points from Sunday's Message:*
 - a. Some Key Verses from Sunday's Message: **Wisdom on What's Better - Proverbs**
 - i. **What's better – going to a funeral or to a party?**
 1. Better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. After all, everyone dies – so the living should take this to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. A wise person thinks a lot about death, while a fool thinks only about having a good time. Eccl. 7:2-4
 2. [There is] a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance. Eccl. 3:4

 - ii. **What's better – to live or to die?** *Life is good!*
 1. God fills my life with good things. Ps. 103:5
 2. Put [your] hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 1 Tim. 6:17b

 - iii. **What's better – to die and go to heaven or to continue living here on earth?** *We want to live – & yet we know Heaven is better.*
 1. "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Phil 1:21
 2. "I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;" Phil 1:23
 3. We would "prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." 2 Cor. 5:8

 - iv. **What's better – to die and go to heaven or to live until Jesus returns and not die?** *Better still is the return of Jesus!*
 1. "Listen! I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.
For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then

shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 1 Cor. 15:51-54 (see also: 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

b. Meaning and Application from Sundays message:

i. Meaning:

As believers consider the future, what they know most clearly is that God has good in store for them – a future and a hope!
Life...Heaven...Resurrection...& a New Heaven and New Earth. Glory!

ii. Application:

1. If Jesus is coming back, and we are living for His return, then our lives will line up with His more and more each day. We will be growing in practical holiness. (2 Pet 3:11ff)
2. Because of the future good that is secured for us in the resurrection, we are free to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord. The promise of future grace motivates present service. (1 Cor. 15:58)

III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. Are your hopes and dreams connected with this life, - or with Jesus in eternity? Are you pursuing “the American dream,” or do you have greater future expectations and aspirations? Are you looking forward to a better country? Are you investing there?
- b. How does a secure inheritance (1 Pet 1:4) that is “kept in heaven for you” make a practical difference in the midst of present challenges?
- c. How is the promise of future grace influencing your present Christian service (1 Cor. 15:58)?
- d. Is it really possible to be “so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good”? Or is it more of a challenge to be so earthly minded that we are no good at all?

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4