

Growing Together Discussion Questions from Sunday's Sermon – Oct. 13, 2013

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

I. **Getting to know you** ~ *Questions for Group Discussion:*

- a. There are just over 10 weeks to Christmas! How does that make you feel?
- b. What do you like the most about the holidays? What do dislike the most about the holidays?

II. **Getting into the Bible** ~ *Points from Sunday's Message:*

- a. Thousands of times the Bible claims to be the Word of God.
 - i. There are many evidences that point to the Bible being the Word of God.
 - ii. The ultimate evidence that we believe the Bible to be the Word of God is that the Bible claims to be the Word of God and the Holy Spirit (Who authored the Word) authenticates that claim to be true in our lives.
 1. Apart from Divine illumination, we would deny the Bible's Divine origin and authorship.
 2. Evidences for Divine authorship are encouraging to believers, but unconvincing to those who willfully refuse to believe because of a desire to be their own authority.
 - iii. If God condescended to write a book, we would be wise to read it, study it, meditate upon it, believe it, fellowship around it, and be transformed by it.
- b. Scripture:
 - i. Psalm 19; Psalm 119:129-144; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:16-21.
- c. **We believe the Scripture, both the Old and New Testament, to be authored by God, written down by chosen men, and to be the verbally inspired (God-breathed) and infallible Word of God. The Bible is our sole authority for belief and practice. The Bible is to be studied diligently, preached accurately, and obeyed faithfully. The Word of God was written so that we might know God and respond in faith in Jesus Christ. God authored His Word and is active in the perseveration of His Word. The interpretation of Scripture is to be found by diligently applying the grammatical-historical method of interpretation, comparing Scripture with Scripture, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. We believe the 66 books of the Bible are to be accepted as canonical.**

III. **Getting into Life:**

- a. Do you think you would pay more attention if God spoke to you from heaven or through the voice of a living prophet than if he spoke to you from the written words of Scripture? Would you believe or obey such words more readily than you do Scripture?
- b. Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, and members of other groups have claimed present day revelations from God that they count equal to the Bible in authority. What reasons can you give to indicate the falsity of those claims? In practice, do these people treat the Bible as an authority equal to these other "revelations"?
- c. Do you think your present level of response to the written words of Scripture is an appropriate one?
- d. What positive steps can you take to make your attitude toward Scripture more like the kind of attitude God wants you to have?