



Personal Reasons

Small Group Work Sheet

February 20, 2011

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

- How has God's Word transformed your life? Do you remember the time or times when the word of God became real to you -- that you became passionate to read and follow it?
- Do you have a friend who went through an amazing life transformation because of God's Word? Share the story.

Part 2 - Sermon Review

- Read Hebrews 4:12-13 again. What does it mean when it says the "word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit...?"
- Many times we don't like to hear bad news. Why is the Bible's wounding so important? What does the importance of wounding teach you about sharing the gospel with others?
- In the story of Alan Redpath, we learned the only good thing about us is Jesus. How does that change the way you feel about yourself and your sins? How does it affect the way you view others, whether friends or enemies?
- Do you have a plan to read the Bible? Share your plan with the group. What Bible reading plans have worked well for you and which ones have not, and why? If not, make a plan in the group and develop a way to hold one another accountable.
- What did you think of the steps to help you learn more from the Bible? Which of the ideas do you plan to incorporate to help you in your personal Bible study?
- Are you planning on attending church next week to hear Dr. Tribelhorn? Are you planning on attending the Saturday evening outreach event? Who have you asked to join you? February 22 is the ticket deadline, only 2 days away. Now is the time to buy your tickets and invite your friends.

Part 3 - Digging Deeper... *How to Be Happy*

the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;... Psalm 19:8a (ESV)

Precepts are God's rulings, His prescriptions, pronouncements, principles. The world has principles too, doesn't it? Stuff like: "You only go around once, so go for the gusto." Everyone has heard of worldly principles like these. You have your favorites, I am sure.

But in contrast to all this faulty human thinking, that seldom guides and never satisfies, are the precepts of the Lord. God's precepts are right. They're not off-track, not even by one degree. What God's word says is right in all that it asserts.

Never will we have so much joy in this world as when we are living in conformity to God's Word. Like an engine firing on all cylinders. Like a symphony with all the instruments playing in perfect harmony together. God's precepts give us the ability to live life with joy in our heart. We need to remember that every time we are tempted. Every temptation is only a facade for happiness. Behind the facade is always bitterness that outweighs any temporary joy. True happiness is found in keeping the precepts of the Lord.