



Before We Begin...

It is an honor and an extreme privilege to serve you as Pastor here at 3Ps Christian Ministries. As we continue this series entitled “Church Stuff” I hope that we will gain a deeper knowledge of the Word of God and apply it to our lives for us all to be more effective in our ministry reaching souls for Christ.

We know that we are a group of believers who love the Lord Jesus Christ, which is a tremendous blessing. In this study, our sessions will cover bible Q&A, Depression, Relationships, Repentance & Forgiveness, Prayer and Suffering.

I pray you and your family will join us for the next six weeks as we endeavor to learn more about God and grow closer in our relationship as well as in ministry.

Pastor Kermit & Sandy Perry

Table of Contents

- Lesson 1: Question & Answers** 2
- Lesson 2: Depression and Christianity**..... 4
- Lesson 3: Sexuality and Christianity** 7
- Read: Song of Solomon 7:1-9 AMP 8
- Lesson 4: Repentance & Forgiveness**..... 10
- Lesson 5: Prayer and The Church**..... 12
- Lesson 6: Suffering as a Believer**..... 14



Lesson 1: Question & Answers

John 5:39-40 Acts 17:10-13

- Question: How important is it for believers to have a working knowledge of the Word of God?

John 5:39 – 40 NKJV

³⁹You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

⁴⁰But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

Acts 17:10 – 13 NKJV

¹⁰Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so. ¹²Therefore many of them believed, and also not a few of the Greeks, prominent women as well as men. ¹³But when the Jews from Thessalonica learned that the word of God was preached by Paul at Berea, they came there also and stirred up the crowds.

- Question: How important is it for us to know what we believe and why?

| Discussion Starters | | | |
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| What is salvation and how do we obtain it? | | When does the Holy Spirit enter a believers life? | |
| Can a person be sure of his/her salvation? | | Are we living in the end times? | |
| When does eternal life begin? | | Does God always answer Prayer? | |



Lesson 2: Depression and Christianity

Psalms 142:1-7; Galatians 6:1-5; James 4:11-12; Hebrews 4:15



At 11:08 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 24, The Chino Police Department received a call from the Chino, California, church about an attempted suicide. When they arrived, Pastor Stoecklein who had been battling anxiety and depression for months was identified as the victim.

He died hours later at a local hospital and prompted a national discussion on mental health and the church, which Kayla vowed to continue. "Andrew got sick; he was given a diagnosis, much like any other deadly diagnosis. His illness grew worse over time.

This illness caused him to lose his ability to make wise decisions, to think clearly, and to articulate his feelings properly. If Andrew

were sitting here today, healthy and strong, I am confident he would want a redo. He did not want to die.

- Robert Flores, Calvary Chapel Chino Valley Prison Minister, committed suicide in September 2018
- Matthew Warren (Son of Rick and Kay Warren) fatally shot himself at the age of 27 in April 2013, after a long and private struggle with mental illness.

Albert Y. Hsu, senior editor for IVP Books at InterVarsity Press who earned a Ph.D. in educational studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, agrees that the idea that Christians who commit suicide are condemned to Hell is a "misconception."

Hsu, who lost his own father to suicide, authored a book on the subject called [Grieving a Suicide: A Loved One's Search for Comfort](#)

"Christians often assume that suicide is an unforgivable sin and that those who die by suicide automatically go to hell. That's a misconception that believes in a transactional view of sin and forgiveness, where if we don't confess the sin of suicide after it takes place, it can't be forgiven. But that idea comes more from Augustine and medieval theology than the Bible," he said.

"There are seven suicides in Scripture from King Saul to Judas, and they're always depicted negatively. They are never God's plan for anybody's life. But it's also not the unforgivable sin that automatically condemns somebody for eternity," he said. "I put suicide in the literary category of tragedy. In Greek or



Shakespearean tragedy, somebody is undone by an internal fatal flaw, and the tragic hero dies because something has gone wrong in their story.

When we think of that and our loved ones that we lost in suicide, that helps us understand them. It doesn't excuse their action, but it helps us have compassion on and empathy for them."

Kay Warren, best-selling author and Bible teacher who co-founded Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, with her husband, Rick, also supports the view that suicide doesn't condemn a Christian to Hell.

Psalm 142 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Prayer for Help in Trouble.

A skillful song, or a didactic or reflective poem, of David; when he was in the cave. A Prayer.

- 142 I cry aloud with my voice to the Lord; I make supplication with my voice to the Lord.
- 2 I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare my trouble before Him.
- 3 When my spirit was overwhelmed *and* weak within me [wrapped in darkness], You knew my path. In the way where I walk They have hidden a trap for me.
- 4 Look to the right [the point of attack] and see; For there is no one who has regard for me [to act in my favor]. Escape has failed me *and* I have nowhere to run; No one cares about my life.
- 5 I cried out to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my refuge, My portion in the land of the living.
- 6 "Give attention to my cry, For I am brought very low; Rescue me from my persecutors, For they are stronger than I.
- 7 "Bring my soul out of prison (adversity), So that I may give thanks *and* praise Your name; The righteous will surround me [in triumph], For You will look after me."

Galatians 6:1-5 Amplified Bible (AMP)

Bear One Another's Burdens

- 6 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any sin, you who are spiritual [that is, you who are responsive to the guidance of the Spirit] are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness [not with a sense of superiority or self-righteousness], keeping a watchful eye on yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.
- 2 Carry one another's burdens and in this way you will fulfill the requirements of the law of Christ [that is, the law of Christian love]. 3 For if anyone thinks he is something [special] when [in fact] he is nothing [special except in his own eyes], he deceives himself.
- 4 But each one must carefully scrutinize his own work [examining his actions, attitudes, and behavior], and then he can have the personal satisfaction and inner joy of doing something commendable without comparing himself to another.
- 5 For every person will have to bear [with patience] his own burden [of faults and shortcomings for which he alone is responsible].



James 4:11-12 Amplified Bible (AMP)

11 Believers, do not speak against *or* slander one another. He who speaks [self-righteously] against a brother or judges his brother [hypocritically], speaks against the Law and judges the Law. If you judge the Law, you are not a doer of the Law but a judge of it. 12 There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy [the one God who has the absolute power of life and death]; but who are you to [hypocritically or self-righteously] pass judgment on your neighbor?

Footnotes: 1. [James 4:11](#) This is not a prohibition of all judgment, nor is it a command to stop using godly wisdom, common sense, and moral courage together with God’s written word to discern right from wrong, to distinguish between morality and immorality, and to judge doctrinal truth. There are many judgments that are not only legitimate, but are commanded (cf John 7:24; 1 Cor 5:5, 12; Gal 1:8, 9; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 10); however, you cannot judge another if you are committing the same type of sin

Hebrews 4:15 Amplified Bible (AMP)

15 For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize *and* understand our weaknesses *and* temptations, but One who has been tempted [knowing exactly how it feels to be human] in every respect as *we are*, yet without [committing any] sin.

Notes



Lesson 3: Sexuality and Christianity

Proverbs 5:15-22, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5, Song of Solomon, Psalms 16:11, Hebrews 13:4(AMP)

You may be surprised to find that there is nothing in the Bible that supports the assumption that sexual pleasure is innately dirty, shameful, and sinful.

That may be Christian tradition, but it isn't biblical. God equipped both male and female bodies with the capacity to experience great pleasure through sexual touching and expression.

He placed the greatest concentration of nerve endings in both the male and female genitalia. There is nothing inherently wrong with the pleasure that comes from sexual touch.

What makes sexual pleasure right or wrong is how we pursue it. As adults we understand that God has called us to honor Him with how we exercise our sexuality.

“The problems we are seeing in our culture: pornography, sexual abuse, LGBT issues—all of them—the problems are not the things we’re identifying. Those are symptoms. The primary problem is that we do not have a biblical sense of why God created us as sexual people.

Until we reclaim that conversation, we are going to be playing whack-a-mole. You know, let’s get a support group for the men struggling with sexual addiction. Let’s help the married couple that is experiencing infidelity—I mean you name the problems.

We can’t have a problem-solving approach. We have to reclaim this in our churches.”



Dr. Juli Slattery, Family Life Today broadcast of August 23, 2018

Sex releases dopamine— its purpose is to drive you back to the source of pleasure. “Friends with benefits” is oxymoronic. You cannot have sex with someone without it getting emotional, and when it ends, you get hurt. Oxytocin is also released during climax in sex—the purpose of oxytocin is a bonding chemical. A chemical bond is created, telling us, “You are one.”

- “The desire to connect is not *just* an emotional feeling. Bonding is real and almost like the adhesive effect of glue—a powerful connection that cannot be undone without great emotional pain.”
- **1 John 4:10-12 Expanded Bible (EXB) – Real Love**



Genesis 4 Amplified Bible (AMP)

4 Now the man Adam knew Eve as his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have obtained a man (baby boy, son) with *the help of the Lord.*"

Proverbs 3:5-6 Amplified Bible (AMP)

5 Trust in *and* rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart
 And do not rely on your own insight *or* understanding.
 6 In all your ways know *and* acknowledge *and* recognize Him,
 And He will make your paths straight *and* smooth [removing obstacles that block your way].

Psalms 46:10 Amplified Bible (AMP)

10 "Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God.
 I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth."

yada` The KJV translates Strong's H3045 in the following manner: know (645x), known (105x), knowledge (19x), perceive (18x), shew (17x), tell (8x), wist (7x), understand (7x), certainly (7x), acknowledge (6x), acquaintance (6x), consider (6x), declare (6x), teach (5x), miscellaneous (85x).

Read: Song of Solomon 7:1-9 AMP

Notes:

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Genesis 2:24-25 AMP

²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed *or* embarrassed.



Exodus 34:11-17 AMP

¹¹ “Be sure to observe what I am commanding you this day: behold, I am going to drive out the Amorite before you, and the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite. ¹² Watch yourself so that you do not make a covenant (solemn agreement, treaty) with the inhabitants of the land into which you are going, or it will become a [dangerous] trap among you.

¹³ But you shall tear down *and* destroy their [pagan] altars, smash in pieces their [sacred] pillars (obelisks, images) and cut down their ^[a]Asherim ¹⁴—for you shall not worship any other god; for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous (impassioned) God [demanding what is rightfully and uniquely His]—

¹⁵ otherwise you might make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land and they would play the prostitute with their gods and sacrifice to their gods, and someone might invite you ^[b]to eat his sacrifice (meal), ¹⁶ and you might take some of his daughters for your sons, and his daughters would play the prostitute with their gods and cause your sons also to play the prostitute (commit apostasy) with their gods [that is, abandon the true God for man-made idols]. ¹⁷ You shall make for yourselves no molten gods.

“Sexual pleasure in marriage is precious, but not as precious as what it signifies in relation to Jesus.”



Lesson 4: Repentance & Forgiveness

Matthew 4:12-17; 18: 21-35

Is this topic difficult to talk about? Why or why not?

Matthew 4:12-17 NKJV

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁵ “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles:

¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 18:21-35 NKJV

²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. ²³ Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. ²⁶ The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ ²⁷ Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

REPENTANCE
& FORGIVENESS



28 “But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’

30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me.

33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

Questions:

- What is Forgiveness?
- Can there be Forgiveness without reconciliation?
- Is there a need for Forgiveness in your life?

Memory Verse

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32 NKJV



Lesson 5: Prayer and The Church

Matthew 6:5-13 & Philippians 4:4-7

Prayer is the key and faith unlocks the door!

Matthew 6:5-13 NKJV

““And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”



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| <p>1. What does Jesus want us to understand about the importance of Prayer?</p> | <p>2. Do you have any examples of how Prayer and changed your life circumstances?</p> |
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| PRAISE | Matthew 6:9 | "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'" |
| REPENT | Matthew 6:12 | "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." |
| ASK | Matthew 6:11&13 | "Give us this day our daily bread." "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]" |
| YIELD | Matthew 6:10 | "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven." |

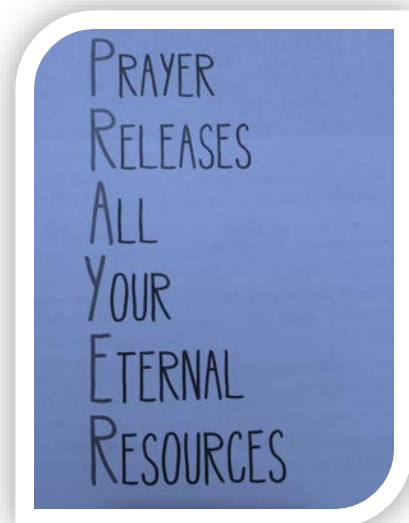
Philippians 4:4-7 NKJV

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Memory Verse

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence."

1 Timothy 2:1-2 NKJV





Lesson 6: Suffering as a Believer

Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:18-22, 28; 1 Peter 1:6-9

Suffering: to endure death, pain, or distress, to sustain loss or damage, etc. to be subject to disability or handicap.

Genesis 3:17-19 NKJV

“Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For” out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.””

Discussion Questions

- Looking at these verses where did suffering originate from?
- What kind of suffering do we experience today?



Romans 8:18-22 NKJV

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”



Romans 8:28 NKJV

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

Discussion Questions:

- What are some of the sufferings that Paul is referring to?
- What should be the hope of every believer?

I Peter 1:3-5 NKJV

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

I Peter 1:6-9 NKJV

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”

Discussion Question:

- How important is it for us to share the message of hope to those who are suffering?
- Will sharing with others that are suffering help us in our time of calamity?

Memory Verse

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” **John 16:33 NKJV**