



Bible studies for disciples who make disciples

Loudonville Community Church

Volume 5 - Number 8  
The week of January 5, 2020

2020 VISION

*OF FIRST IMPORTANCE*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

### THIS WEEK'S CORE STATEMENT

**Salvation By Grace** *Ephesians 2:8-9*

We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential and that a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Main Point:** Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

### **The Most Important Business of Your Life<sup>1</sup>** by George Mueller

We have, through the goodness of the Lord, been permitted to enter upon another year, and the minds of many among us will no doubt be occupied with plans for the future and the various fears of our work and service for the Lord. If our lives are spared, we shall be engaged in those: the welfare of our families, the prosperity of our business, our work and service for Christ may be considered the most important matters to be attended to; but according to my judgment the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord.

Other things may press upon you, the Lord's work may even have urgent claims upon your attention, but I deliberately repeat, it is of supreme and paramount importance that you should seek above all things to have your souls truly happy in God Himself! Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life. This has been my firm and settled condition for the last five and thirty years. For the first four years after my conversion I knew not its vast importance, but now after much experience I specially commend this point to the notice of my younger brethren and sisters in Christ: the secret of all true effectual service is joy in God, having experimental acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself.

But in what way shall we attain to this settled happiness of soul? How shall we learn to enjoy God? How shall we obtain such an all-sufficient, soul-satisfying portion in Him as shall enable us to let go the things of this world as vain and worthless in comparison? I answer, this happiness is to be obtained through the study of the Holy Scriptures. God has therein revealed Himself unto us in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the Scriptures, by the power of the Holy Ghost, He makes Himself known unto our souls... [Therefore] The very earliest portion of the day we can command should be devoted to the meditation on Scriptures. Our souls should feed upon the Word.... This intimate experimental acquaintance with Him will make us truly happy. Nothing else will.... In God our Father, and the blessed Jesus, our souls have a rich, divine, imperishable, eternal treasure. Let us enter into practical possession of these true riches; yea, let the remaining days of our earthly pilgrimage be spent in an ever increasing, devoted, earnest consecration of our souls to God.

<sup>1</sup> *A Narrative of Some of the Lord's Dealings with George Mueller, Written by Himself* (Muskegon, Mich.: Dust and Ashes Publications, 2003), pp. 730-732. This is an excerpt from a sermon the 59-year-old Mueller preached to his congregation at a New Year's service in 1864.

## STEP ONE . . .

### OBSERVATION

*What does the text say?*

~ 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 ~

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. <sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

## STEP TWO . . .

### EXPLORING the passage through discussion

*Please review the questions below before your Growth Group gathering. During the discussion time, don't feel the need to answer all ten questions but share what the Lord may be prompting you to do in one or two areas.*

**[Icebreaker]** As a group share some of the biggest changes in your life over the past decade.

What was the most important? What was the most surprising?

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings.

1. What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
2. What's the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
3. What's the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family life this year?

4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
5. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
6. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
8. What's the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years?

### **A Prayer for the New Year**

Holy Father, thank You for the gift of a new year.  
Thank You for all the grace You have shown us over the past year.  
You remained faithful.  
We needed Your mercy on a daily basis and You gave us daily mercies.  
Even when we tried to find satisfaction in something else besides You,  
Your love remained irrepressible, inexhaustible, and inexplicable.

May this new year be filled with getting to know You better.  
To better know Your Son who is the essence of life.  
To better know Your Holy Spirit and His work and power in our lives.

We begin this year confident of Your unfailing love,  
A love that is not based on anything in us, but everything in Jesus.  
Propel us into our city and neighborhoods,  
To love others with Your love, to serve when unnoticed, and to suffer with hope,  
All to the glory of Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Of First Importance*

Sunday, January 5 thru Saturday, January 11, 2020  
Genesis 5, Matthew 5, Ezra 5, Acts 5; Gen. 6, Matt.6, Ezra 6, Acts 6;  
Gen. 7, Matt. 7, Ezra 7, Acts 7; Gen. 8, Matt. 8, Ezra 8, Acts 8;  
Gen. 9, Matt. 9, Ezra 9, Acts 9; Gen. 10, Matt. 10, Ezra 10, Acts 10;  
Gen. 11, Matt. 11, Neh. 1, Acts 11