

# Better Way Apostolic Church- Bible Class

## Subject: BOREDOM: Ecclesiastes 2:11

Psalms 97:10-11 Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. 11 Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.

### The Lord Is Exalted among His People: Psalms 97:10-12

God's people are those who love Him and do not turn to idols for help (91:14; 1 Corinthians 8:1-3). But if we love Him who is holy, we will hate that which is unholy (34:14; 36:4; 37:27; 119:104; Proverbs 8:13; Romans 12:9). In this paragraph, God's people are called "saints" or "godly ones," "the righteous," "the upright in heart," and all of these names speak of a life devoted to God. We should love Him, obey him ("hate evil"), rejoice in Him, and give thanks to Him for all His mercies. After all, He protects His people, delivers them, gives them light for their path, and puts gladness into their hearts. What more could they want?

The image in verse 11 is that of the sower; the Lord plants light like seeds so that His people will not always walk in darkness, and what He plants will eventually bear fruit. "Sowing" is a frequent metaphor in Scripture for the deeds of both God and people (112:4; Proverbs 11:18; Hosea 8:7; 10:12; James 3:18). The psalm begins with a universal revelation of God's glory (vv. 2-6), with dramatic flashes of lightning, but it ends with His light quietly shining on the paths of His people. Some see the image as that of the dawn, with the morning light diffused along the ground as though the Lord were planting it like seed. But God also sows joy with that light, for when we walk in the light, we also have joy in the Lord (16:11; Isaiah 60:1-5). God's people have their dark days when life is difficult, but there are always seeds of light and joy to accompany us along the way. Is there any reason why we should not be rejoicing now?

"Boredom?" Yes, boredom. It has become a major problem in a culture based on non-stop entertainment and the perceived personal right to pleasure no matter what it costs. And still people do not think we have a values problem in America. What we actually have is a *virtue problem*, which is far worse. Virtue begins in the home but the whole society undermines the pursuit of virtue by its endless rush toward secularism and hedonism. Bored kids, in modern America, are apparently now dangerous to the homeless and the helpless. This is another sad evidence of how deep our need is for true moral reformation.

### **BOREDOM: ITS SOURCE**

WHAT BRINGS ON BOREDOM?

**As I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless. It was like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere. (Ecclesiastes 2:11)**

### **BOREDOM COMES FROM A SELF-CENTERED OUTLOOK.**

Solomon conducted his search for life's meaning as an experiment. He first tried pursuing pleasure. He undertook great projects, bought slaves and herds and flocks, amassed wealth, acquired singers, added many women to his harem, and became the

greatest person in Jerusalem. But none of these gave him satisfaction. Some of the pleasures Solomon sought were wrong and some were worthwhile, but even the worthy pursuits were futile when he pursued them as ends in themselves. We must look beyond our activities to the reasons we do them and the purpose they fulfill. Is your goal in life to search for meaning or to search for God who gives meaning?

**I ask you again, does God give you the Holy Spirit and work miracles among you because you obey the law of Moses? Of course not! It is because you believe the message you heard about Christ. (Galatians 3:5)**

### **BOREDOM MAY ACTUALLY BE FATIGUE.**

The Holy Spirit gives Christians great power to live for God. Some Christians want more than this. They want to live in a state of perpetual excitement. The tedium of everyday living leads them to conclude that something is wrong spiritually. But power-filled living and busyness are different things. Often the Holy Spirit's greatest work is teaching us to persist, to keep on doing what is right even when it no longer seems interesting or exciting. The Galatians quickly turned from Paul's Good News to the teachings of the newest teachers in town; they needed the Holy Spirit's gift of persistence. If the Christian life seems ordinary, you may need the Spirit to stir you up. Every day offers a challenge to live for Christ.

### **GOD'S WORD ON BOREDOM**

We grow bored when we do the same thing all the time, when we do work with no apparent purpose, or when we do nothing for too long. No one ever became bored with exciting, fulfilling, productive work. If you are bored, ask the following questions: Am I doing too little? Am I doing work that seems unproductive? Am I doing work that repeats the same old thing and I don't seem to be going anywhere? Every day offers a challenge to live for Christ. Are you accepting that challenge?

### **HOW DO WE GET BORED?**

Hebrews 6:11-12 . . . Our great desire is that you will keep right on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent.

We get bored when we lose hope. It is hope that enables us to press on even when life gets difficult. Being a Christian may sound boring to unbelievers, but it really is an exciting life when you get into it. Focusing on the eternal rewards God promises to believers should make life continually exciting. If we become bored in our Christian life it is because we are not walking with God and experiencing the daily blessings he is ready to give us.

### **WHAT ELIMINATES BOREDOM?**

Romans 5:11 . . . Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God-all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God. God has a plan for each of us. Boredom is eliminated when our relationship with God grows to where we recognize his purpose for us.

### **WHAT ARE SIGNS OF BOREDOM?**

Galatians 6:9 . . . Don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give

up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

Proverbs 26:14 . . . As a door turns back and forth on its hinges, so the lazy person turns over in bed.

Ecclesiastes 2:23 . . . Their days of labor are filled with pain and grief; even at night they cannot rest. It is all utterly meaningless.

Getting tired of what is good, a sense of meaninglessness, laziness-these are all signs of boredom.

### **HOW CAN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE ELIMINATE BOREDOM?**

Romans 5:11 . . . Now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God-all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us in making us friends of God.

Romans 8:28 . . . We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

God has a plan for each of us. Boredom is eliminated when our relationship with God grows to where we recognize his purpose for us.

Nehemiah 8:10 . . . The joy of the Lord is your strength!

Ephesians 5:1-2 . . . Follow God's example in everything you do. . . .Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ.

If you really try to follow Christ's example every day, you will never become bored!

### **FAITHFULNESS IN MARRIAGE NEED NOT BE BORING.**

Proverbs 5:18-19 . . . May you always be captivated by her love.

God does not intend faithfulness in marriage to be boring. Real happiness comes when we commit ourselves to finding pleasure in the relationship God has given us.

### **IF YOU ARE BORED, DEVELOP A LIFE PURPOSE AND PURSUE IT.**

Numbers 1:2 . . . Take a census of the whole community of Israel.

Having a purpose in life brings excitement and renewal.

### **A SINFUL WAY OF LIFE IS BORING.**

Proverbs 14:14 . . . Backsliders get what they deserve; good people receive their reward.

With God it is hard to get bored, for his reach is as broad as the universe and as far as eternity.

Jeremiah 2:25 . . . Why do you refuse to turn from all this running after other gods?

Chasing other gods is a tiring business, one pursuit after another ends with disappointment and dissatisfaction. Sin has a debilitating sameness at its core. It is only the clothing that changes. God alone truly satisfies.

### **ISN'T IT ALSO POSSIBLE TO GET BORED DOING GOOD THINGS FOR GOD ALL THE TIME?**

Galatians 6:9 . . . Don't get tired of doing what is good . . . for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.

If doing right becomes boring, then we are doing right for the wrong reasons. Rightness

is always exciting. The discouragement comes when we expect something in return and we don't receive it.

#### PROMISE FROM GOD:

Philippians 2:4 . . . Don't think only about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and what they are doing.

### Church Growth Principles — Keys to Lasting Health and Vitality

If you're looking for church growth principles, here's one: church growth begins with church health, not the other way around. We see in nature that healthy things grow. This is by no means a new concept, but it's still true. But how do you know if you're a healthy church? What can you use as a measuring stick? Based on extensive field testing and research with thousands of churches and individuals, we've compiled these church health categories and use them regularly in helping churches measure and monitor their own church health:

- › God's Empowering Presence
- › God-Exalting Worship
- › Spiritual Disciplines
- › Learning and Growing in Community
- › A Commitment to Loving and Caring Relationships
- › Servant-Leadership Development
- › An Outward Focus
- › Wise Administration and Accountability
- › Networking with the Body of Christ
- › Stewardship and Generosity

Using the above categories for measurement, we encourage churches to lean toward the following attributes in pursuit of lasting health and vitality:

- › **Stay Humble.** Humble people listen, humble churches listen. They are open to what God has to say to them and what other people have to say to them. The day we stop listening is the day pride begins to eat away at the framework of our ministry. The key to lasting health and vitality is to stay humble and grounded.
- › **Be Teachable.** A life-long learner who is submitted to the will of God has nearly limitless potential. Are you open to learning new things? Do you acknowledge your mistakes or cast blame on others? Are you willing to defer to others who have specialized expertise?