

DISCUSSION NOTES

the book of
James

Date: May 3, 2020

Title: God is Not a Shadow

Read: James 1:16-18

This passage is addressing some misconceptions with God.

- If we can't see God - He must not see us.
- If we can't hear God - He must not be hearing us or speaking at all.
- If we can't understand the actions of God - He must not be able to be understood.

Read: Verse 16

Question: In what areas do we have the potential to be misled?

Question: What is the difference between admission and confession?

- Confession is admitting that something happened.
- Admission is admitting that something could happen.

Question: Why is important to practice these disciplines?

Read: Verse 17

Christianity is first and foremost about receiving, not about giving.

Question: Do you believe this?

Question: How does life get harder when we don't believe this?

Read: Jeremiah 29:11

Challenge: Get your thoughts right about God. Don't let the true things about God get taken away. Don't wander away with your troubles and questions. In the midst of any trial, don't be tempted to change your opinion of the trustworthiness of your God. Stay with God.

Read: Verse 17, "God, never changes or casts a shadow."

Question: Where do shadows come from?

Question: What shadows block our view and understanding of God?

Question: Where are you seeing God work during COVID-19?

Question: Do you agree with C.S. Lewis that, "The Christian life is all about waking up and walking out of the shadowlands toward the sun."

Read: 1 Corinthians 13:12

What do we know?

- You and I are very limited in our earthly and eternal views and perspectives.
- There is wage that sin has placed upon the human race over 2,000 year ago.
- God continues to write His story guided by his permissive and sovereign will.
- The final chapter of God's book matters so much. God wants no one to perish but all to have eternal life. Through His death, burial, resurrection and ascension a way back to God is always possible. He is as close as the mention of His name.

Challenge: For all kinds of reasons, shadows and veils aren't going to go away until Christ returns and ushers in a new heaven and new earth. So, in the meantime, we must practise the discipline of confession + admission to confront fear and doubts that shadows and veils bring.

MAIN POINT #1

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MAIN POINT #2

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MAIN POINT #3

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MAIN POINT #4

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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- 2.

3.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (if applicable)