

Common Ground 2020 - "Different is Good" - The Book of Daniel

Week 6 "Learn to See What Eyes Can't See"

Daniel 12

Daily Devotion Sermon Questions

1. Pastor Dave outlined his points as: trouble will come, God will prevail, and time will end. Discuss with your group what do these things mean to you, how do they make you feel.
2. Read Daniel's prayer in **Chapter 9: 1-19**. Daniel relates the troubles of his people to ongoing sin. He confesses the sins of his people and lays claim to them personally. Daniel's love and compassion for his people gave him insight to his nation's troubles. His humility before God brought him to feel shared responsibility. Discuss with your group how we usually think and operate, and how it differs from Daniel's example. Since studying Daniel, what personal changes have you seen in yourself? How can you/we all be more like Daniel?
3. Read **Daniel 12: 1-3**. This is a beautiful look at deliverance. Even if we think we aren't capable of persevering, God has mercy and overcomes all sin. **John 16: 33** can give us additional courage. In the middle of this battle, the Lord sent His messenger to call Daniel by name, and 'highly esteemed'. What name do you long to be called by? How does the truth that the conquering King of Heaven knows your name encourage you?
4. How might Daniel's remarks in 12:8 that he "heard but did not understand" encourage you, as you try and understand these visions? We see that Daniel asked God questions and sought to understand. Do you? We might not fully understand what God is saying and doing in our lives at times, but He has been clear in other ways. What truths has God made clear to you? Share with your group. Since studying Daniel, has your understanding increased? What do you attribute to that?
5. Daniel was given a vision that encompassed time, but he was reminded that he still lived in time. Verse 9 says, "Go your way Daniel," and so he went about the work God had set for him. He saw that it mattered to choose God's side. Reflect on your own life, and some of the recent choices you've made. Share with your group how God guided you in your choices, even if you did not see it at the time?

APPLICATION:

6. We are called to use time wisely. Read **Colossians 4:5**, 'Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.' Our voice is needed to guide others to choose God while there is time. As we wrap up our Common Ground study on Daniel, share with your group how this study has personally changed the way you use your time. What are you doing to "make the most of every opportunity?" Has the Lord empowered you to be bolder in sharing Christ with others?
7. End your time in prayer, thanking God for the valuable lessons you've learned from Daniel, and for how he is continually transforming you, for His glory. Thank Him for the reminder that despite the troubles we will face, He prevails, and let that truth encourage your weary heart in the midst of your battles. Surrender anything that is weighing you down, and receive His peace instead. Ask for the Spirit's help in making the most of every opportunity, and for courage to be bold!