

Life Group Notes 8/17/2025

Bill Pelletier Stand Firm Week 6

“The Lord’s Servant”

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time. These notes have been commissioned for you to learn from and enjoy.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.

Be cognizant of your group’s time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Bill Pelletier has raised this week, 8/17. Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes.

Important: At [the very end of these notes](#), I’ve included passages that were mentioned in this week’s message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

Pastor Bill opened with a questions to God’s servants, “Are you ready to do God’s will God’s way?”

1. What does this bring to mind?
2. What does the question mean?
3. What is the first step?
4. What if this means even suffering for the sake of others?
5. Review Paul’s situation writing this letter. Where is he? What is his job at the writing of this letter?
6. Who is Timothy? Where is he? What’s his job?
7. Why is this letter one of Paul’s most intensely personal letters? What is he about to face?

Bill used a parable to illustrate the times: “When you squeeze a tube of toothpaste, what do you expect to come out?” Answer him. “Well, when you squeeze a Christian, what do you expect to come out?”

1. Answer him.
2. Why is there a difference?

3. How does what is inside a Christian get mingled with other ingredients?
4. Who put the ingredients in the "Christian" tube?
5. Who allowed the extra ingredients?
6. What comes out when you get squeezed?

Pastor Bill reviewed what we've read so far. "The apostle Paul is hammering a point to Timothy, using all these different analogies that we've been reading about, with soldiers and athletes and farmers. From a spiritual view, he's using Christ as an example. He's using himself as an example. He's using the Christian experience of others as an example."

1. Take a moment to review. What do you remember?
2. Recount the analogies and describe the implications in each.
3. Bill says, "The point is this: Blessings come through pain. Fruit comes only with toil. Life through death and glory through suffering." Explain.
4. How does this compare to your own Christian experience?

Now look 2 Timothy 2:22-26 22Flee from youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, together with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23But reject foolish and ignorant/stupid arguments, for you know that this breeds quarreling. 24And a servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome, but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and forbearing. 25He must gently reprove those who oppose him, in the hope that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth. 26Then they will come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to his will.

1. Describe in your own words what you just read.
2. List the steps Paul lays out.
3. What does each step ensure?
4. Look closely at verse 22. From what passions are we fleeing? What else?
5. Is it enough just to flee? What do we pursue?
6. How important is the pursuit?
7. Are we pursuing alone? Who are our companions in this pursuit?
8. Do you know any who are calling on the Lord out of a pure heart? Where are they found? (Where are they NOT found?)

Review Joseph's story from Genesis 39:5From the time that he put Joseph in charge of his household and all he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's household on account of him. The LORD's blessing was on everything he owned, both in his house and in his field. 6So Potiphar left all that he owned in Joseph's care; he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, 7and after some time his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph and said, "Sleep with me." 8But he refused. "Look," he said to his master's wife, "with me here, my master does not concern himself with anything in his house, and he has entrusted everything he owns to my care. 9No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. So how could I do such a great evil and sin against God?" 10Although Potiphar's wife spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be near her. 11One day, however, Joseph went into the house to attend to his work, and not a single household servant was inside. 12She grabbed Joseph by his cloak and said, "Sleep with me!" But leaving his cloak in her hand, he escaped and ran outside.

1. What do you see?
2. What do the highlighted verses above, eight and nine, say about Joseph's heart?
3. What happened to Joseph when he fled?
4. What was Joseph's next position, after imprisonment?
5. Look at Matthew 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.* What are the benefits of a pure heart?
6. Explain how Joseph saw God without seeing him. Where did his wisdom come from? Who was his teacher?
7. Is it possible to know God as Joseph did? Explain. What does it take?
8. Look at Hebrews 12:13 *Make straight paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.* 14 Pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. 15 *See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God, and that no root of bitterness springs up to cause trouble and defile many.* Apply this passage to Joseph's story.
9. How did Joseph avoid bitterness?
10. Apply this to your own story. How are you doing?
11. Does righteousness, peace, love or holiness come to you without your deliberate pursuit? Explain.
12. Bill says, "You have to have a passion to make it a part of your life...to seek it out." Explain.
13. Shall we take a moment to pray now?
14. Why do these virtues not come on their own?
15. Why do muscles not just erupt in all the right places all over the body?
16. What erupts if we do not pursue muscles?
17. Look at Luke 9:23 *Then Jesus said to all of them, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me.* 24 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. 25 *What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose or forfeit his own soul?* What do you see?
18. How does this apply to Joseph? To you? To the pursuit?
19. What does it mean to "take up one's cross daily?" How does one follow?

Bill says, "We need the Holy Spirit to empower us, because we do have these youthful passions, these hurts, habits and hangup that we carry with us from our earlier walk. We need to confess and address all those things that keep tripping us up. We need to do that together, because in isolation, we do not have the strength or the power."

1. What do you see?
2. Do old people still have youthful passions? Very old people? You?
3. Look back at the passages from 2 Timothy 2:22 and Hebrews 12:14. How important is it that this pursuit be done with others? Why?
4. Look at James 5:16 *Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power to prevail.* 17 *Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years.* 18 *Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth yielded its crops.* Can this be done alone? How is confession enhanced when it is a shared experience?

5. What happens when we come and pray together, and confess and address things together? Who benefits?
6. What are the limits to any fruit from our prayers? Are there any?
7. Bill says, "Choosing not to gather in Christian community is antithetical to anything that the Bible teaches about pursuing God." Explain.
8. Is it possible to "...love one another..." when you're all alone, by yourself?
9. God said, "It is not good for man to be alone..." and created Eve. Explain.
10. Is it possible to be in God's image and in God's likeness without loving someone?
11. Is it possible to truly love, if that love is never tested?
12. How have you tested God's love? Do you have a testimony?

Look now again at 2 Tim 2: 23*But reject foolish and ignorant/stupid arguments, for you know that this breeds quarreling. 24**And a servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome, but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, and forbearing. 25**He must gently reprove those who oppose him, in the hope that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth. 26**Then they will come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to his will.*

1. Is it possible to walk in fellowship with quarreling?
2. Describe the last stupid, foolish argument you were involved in. What happened?
3. Is a quarrelsome person able to teach? Explain.
4. Is a quarrelsome person teachable? Explain.
5. Pastor Bill says, "Paul warns against engaging in ignorant disputes over issues that ultimately don't produce anything. For example: Should we engage in Halloween? Do we have guardian angels?...things that have nothing to do with the basic elements of faith, and yet we argue over those things..." Do you have a testimony? Other examples?
6. Are you prone to debate? Or do you avoid arguments at all cost?
7. Bill quoted Aimee Semple McPherson, the founder of the Foursquare Church. She said, "In the essentials: Unity. In the non-essentials: Liberty. In all other things: Charity." What do you think?
8. What role do grace and love play in your judgment of other people?
9. What do quarrels breed?

Review 1 Corinthians 13: 1*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. 2**If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3**If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

1. What do you notice?
2. Is the knowledge I possess real? Is the prophecy true?
3. Does the mountain still move? Do the poor receive?
4. Who is the loser, gaining no benefit at all? Explain.

Now, review 1 Corinthians 13: 4*Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5**It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no account of wrongs. 6**Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth. 7**It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8**Love never fails.* How many of these virtues can be practiced when you are alone on an island?

1. Is it possible to be patient or kind if no one is present?

2. How many of these virtues only work if other people are present?
3. Explain why Christianity only works in fellowship with other believers?
4. Look back at 2 Tim 2:25. What is the leader's hope when opposed by another? What is the ultimate goal when another seeks an argument?
5. Is being right the highest good? What is the highest good, then?
6. Look at Psalm 133: 1 *Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!* 2 *It is like fine oil on the head, running down on the beard, running down Aaron's beard over the collar of his robes.* 3 *It is like the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD has bestowed the blessing of life forevermore.* What is the highest good? Explain.
7. If the highest good is Jesus' love expressed fully in His body, what should our goal be?
8. Look at Paul's exhortation to the Colossians in chapter 4: 5 *Act wisely toward outsiders, redeeming the time.* 6 *Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.* Is it possible to preserve that harmony deliberately? What are the steps?
9. How should we behave when a Philetus or a Hymenaeus show up, and proclaim fables as gospel? How do we know the difference between them and a brother?

Bill says, "Satan's plan is that the church be divided, discouraged, distracted and defeated by deceit, bogged down with bickering." List steps to disarm Satan's strategies.

1. Do you have steps to avoid getting offended?
2. Do you have strategies to help those who are easily offended?
3. Look again at the verse: "*that God may grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth.*" 26 *Then they will come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, who has taken them captive to his will.*" Is there anything you can do to produce repentance in another?
4. Where does true repentance come from? What is our prayer for that friend, then?
5. What is the danger for them? If one is captive, what can he not do?
6. Look at Romans 2: 4 *Or do you disregard the riches of His kindness, tolerance, and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you to repentance?* Answer Paul's question. Do you disregard the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience? Do you forget sometimes? Do you have a testimony?
7. With His kindness, tolerance and patience in mind, how does your prayer change?
8. Knowing this, what confidence do you gain in your prayers for your friend?
9. Why is it so good to know God when you are praying for your neighbor?

Pastor Bill says, "I remember reading with interest of the repentance of Zachaeus, because there is something about the stories of short tax professionals that interests me."

1. Explain.
2. What were Zachaeus's expectations when he climbed the tree?
3. How did Jesus' love surpass Zachaeus's expectations?
4. Bill asks, "What makes a hardened tax collector give away what is most dear to him, his money?" Answer him. Was it the threat of hell? What was it?
5. How does God's kindness lead to repentance?
6. How does the word of the testimony of the saints encourage us, and strengthen us in our own walk of faith?
7. How do answers to prayer encourage us to pray more?

8. Are those who oppose us, like the taxman, our enemy?
9. Who is the real enemy? Explain.
10. Did you come to this understanding of who the enemy is by yourself, or did someone else bring you to understand this? Do you have a testimony?

Bill went on, "Slaves do the master's business his way...the master's will the master's way. If we're not trained properly, we're not qualified to serve Him. If we're not leaving behind our own passions, and not pursuing His virtues, we're disqualified. This passage highlights the importance of living and walking by godly virtues, avoiding unnecessary conflicts and gently guiding others toward truth with kindness and patience and gentleness...and the other fruit of the Spirit." He says, "This is the power behind how we conduct ourselves in the world."

1. Explain. How is this power? What is our advantage?
2. Armed with the knowledge of God, how does that make us indomitable in the face of any adversary?
3. What does our knowledge bring with it?

Bill invites us to think back to those who brought to us the knowledge of Jesus. "Think of what you were like before you were a Christian, before you started following Jesus. How much trouble did you put those people through? How many times did you hurt them? How much pressure did you put on them? Did you make them suffer? Were they patient with you? Kind?"

1. Answer him.
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Are you still friends with them?

Pastor Bill closed with the testimony of a hardened criminal, in for life, who had actually murdered someone in the prison.

1. Do you remember the story? Can you recount it?
2. What was Bill's response to the inmate's request to be baptized?
3. What was his reaction when the inmate did not show up for his scheduled appointment?
4. What was his reaction when the guard asked him if he should call for the inmate to come to his appointment?
5. What did Bill ask the inmate?
6. Why did the inmate want to be baptized? Is a desire to follow Jesus and serve him the rest of one's life sufficient reason to be baptized?
7. What brought the inmate to the Lord? What was different about his friend, the other lifer?
8. What qualities did the other lifer have that this inmate desired?
9. What part do our words play in the transmission of the gospel? What part do our deeds play?

Bill then said, "All these virtues that Paul discussed for the protection and transmission of the gospel are not a product of our work, they are acquired from the Holy Spirit in order to do the work of discipleship."

1. List the virtues Bill is talking about from 2 Timothy. Why are they important?
2. How do these virtues serve to *protect* the gospel?
3. How do these virtues serve to *transmit* the gospel?

Bill refers to the imagery of Paul's last days as a race. "And now it is time for him to hand on that baton to Timothy and Titus, as in a relay race. If the baton is not handed off, the race is lost. We're all part of this race, you and I, here in our church, discipling each other and even more importantly the next generation."

1. Have you ever run a relay race?
 2. What does this make you think?
 3. Was Paul successful in handing off the baton? How do you know?
 4. Have you received that baton?
 5. Will you be successful in handing it off? How do you know?
 6. How will you know?
 7. What should you expect in the days ahead? Will it be easy?
-

Follow up application:

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. List the passions you have to address. Have you confessed them to anyone?
3. List the virtues and qualities that effectively work in the protection and transmission of the gospel. Highlight those you can watch and work on as you progress.
4. Decide to join. Find a life group, a journaling group, Celebrate Recovery. Follow the link and sign up: <https://www.gccnh.com/lifegroups>
5. Monitor your own discipleship. Monitor your discipleship of others and take to heart what Jesus is doing at Grace Capital Church. Write it down.

Take the time to pray.

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (Scripture—Copy the scripture. / Observation—Write what you see. / Application—Write what God is saying. / Prayer—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 2 Timothy 2:22
Tuesday: 2 Timothy 2:23-24
Wednesday: 2 Timothy 2:25-26
Thursday: Genesis 39:7-9, 12
Friday: Matthew 5:8-9
Saturday: Hebrews 12:13-15
Sunday: James 5:16-18

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.