

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of July 10, 2016

This Week's Focus: Did God really say that? – “God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”

“I consider the most dangerous heresy on earth the emphasis on what we do for God instead of what God does for us. Some are so convinced of the opposite, they would argue nose to nose. They are often the ones that claim that their favorite verse of Scripture is ‘God helps those who help themselves.’ The fact is, God helps the helpless, the undeserving, those who don't measure up, those who fail to achieve His standard.” **Dr. Charles Swindoll**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's sermon?
- Have you heard someone say, “God helps those who help themselves”? What do people mean by this statement? Is it in the Bible? Is there any element of truth in this statement?
- What does the Bible teach us about the dangers of laziness (Proverbs 26:14, 6:6-9, 2 Thessalonians 3:10) and the purpose of hard work (Ephesians 4:28, Deuteronomy 8:11-20)? Contrast the biblical understanding of work with the American Dream.
- Explain how the phrase “God helps those who help themselves” is actually anti-gospel. What is the gospel?” What does it mean to be “saved”? How does the gospel obliterate our pride and self-reliance? What is our default condition prior to salvation? Reference Romans 3:10-12. Who is alone responsible for the work of salvation in a person's life? Reference Ephesians 2:1-5?
- What is the doctrine of “sanctification”? Discuss how sanctification involves both yielding to God and the activity of doing. Reference Philippians 2:12-13. How do we maintain the right focus of yielding to God and working toward greater holiness?
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?