

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of July 17, 2016

This Week's Focus: Did God really say that? – “God Wants Me to be Happy, Healthy, and Wealthy”

“God’s overflowing joy in his own glory is the root and basis of our joy in his own glory. God is so exuberant about his glory that he makes its display the goal of all he does, therefore so should we.”

John Piper

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- What is the prosperity gospel? Is it true that God's will is that all believers should always be personally happy, physically healthy, and materially wealthy?
- How does the prosperity gospel confuse the nature of God (particularly his sovereignty and creative power) and the nature of humans? Reference Psalm 103:19, Isaiah 46:9-10. What is faith? Is faith simply a spiritual force that can be wielded for our desires and purposes?
- How does the prosperity gospel misrepresent the nature of Jesus and the sufficiency of his atoning sacrifice on the cross? Discuss how Jesus' suffering and death on the cross was an act of triumph. Reference 1 Corinthians 1:22-24, Galatians 6:14.
- Did Jesus atoning work on the cross purchase our physically healing like the prosperity gospel claims? Reference Isaiah 53:4-6, 1 Peter 2:24. What is an over realized eschatology, and how is it used by proponents of the prosperity gospel? Discuss how Jesus' atoning work guarantees our final, future glorification.
- Does God want us to be happy? Where does God want us to find true, lasting joy? Reference Psalm 37:4, Philippians 3:1. Explain how serving God and experiencing joy are inextricably connected. Reference 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:23.
- How does the passage encourage you to declare and demonstrate the gospel in your community and spheres of influence?