

Coming Back from Cynicism
2 Corinthians 12:11-21, Pew Bible p. 970
January 22, 2023

Cynicism: an inclination to believe that people are motivated purely by self-interest

I. Cynicism and the Work of God (V. 11-13)

- A. Cynicism can cause you to ignore the work of God.
- B. Coming back from cynicism requires faith that God can and does work in spite of the plans of man.

II. Cynicism and the Love of God (V. 14-18)

- A. Cynicism can cause you to mistrust the godly people around you.
- B. Coming back from cynicism requires trusting that God can and does send loving people into our lives for our benefit.

III. Cynicism and the Holiness of God (V. 19-21)

- A. Cynicism can cripple your ability to respond to godly rebuke.
- B. Coming back from cynicism requires exalting God's holiness over mankind's failure.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-21.
2. Have you ever been cynical about the work of God (ex. a miracle, a Bible teacher, a pastor, or a testimony), as the Corinthians were in verses 12,16,17? Why?
3. Is cynicism on the part of a Christian always wrong? How do you know?
4. What is the difference between wanting what someone has and just wanting them, as verse 14 says? Why is it important for Christians to serve people for their sake and not for what they can get from them?
5. Have you ever been spent for someone else's soul, as verse 15 says? What did that look like? Why is this portrayed in scripture as such a good thing? How can you be spent for the souls of others?
6. What can sinful cynicism do to a person's ability to be loved by others, as verses 14-18 imply?
7. What does our trust in godly leadership have to do with repentance of sin, according to verses 19-21? How can you trust the godly people in your life in a way that helps you sin less?
8. Pray for our church members to be on mission to all people. Consider coming to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Worship Center across the hall from the Choir Room.

Church Bible Reading Plan

2 Kings 18-20

January Memory Verses: 2 Kings 19:15-19

Luke 15:3-7

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting

- PRAYING this week for our church outreach efforts, for six people who committed their life to Christ and their preparations to get baptized.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia;
Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Glendale, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus:
Marge D. (son, Matthew); Margaret J. (Tom & Bob); and Rezwana D. (parents)
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Family of Wayne & Twila D.; Larry & Brenda D. (her sister-in-law); Gertrude A. (granddaughter);
Family of John E.; Debbie & John P. (her brother); and Carolyn & Billy H. (her father)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Debbie B. (chemo); Mary R. (transplant recovery);
Laura M. (health issues); Stan & Twyla H. (health & other issues); Michelle LaM. (health issues);
Debbie P. (health issues); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); Don R. (pneumonia and broken ribs);
Carolyn H. (father in hospice); Ann C.-W. (headaches); Gary C. (valve replacement recovery);
Joe B. (back surgery recovery); Kaitlyn D. (pregnancy concerns); Walter W. (health issue);
Marge D. (in hospital); Ida S. (upcoming oral surgery); Uriel & Sarah V. (family illnesses); and
Laura M. (in hospital for low iron)
- Others that you are aware of