



(EPHESIANS 6:23-24; PART ONE)

When a person becomes a Christian, I will always tell them to immediately start reading *the Word of God*, because that's how they will learn to follow *the ways of God*. But inevitably they will ask me, "So, where do I start?" My answer is to begin with the **Gospel of Mark**, which will inform them about the *life of Jesus*. From there, I tell them to read Paul's **Letter to the Ephesians**, which will teach them how to *live for Jesus*. Next, I encourage them to read through the **Gospel of John**, because it focuses on the *teachings of Jesus*. This Sunday and next, we'll be wrapping up our current series in the second of these three foundational Bible books by studying *Ephesians 6:23-24*. At first glance, Paul's closing words might appear to be little more than a wordy goodbye. Truth be told, his final thoughts are so much more than that! In this sign off, Paul closes with a big reminder to never forget what we gained when we put our faith in Jesus. Listen, once we commit our life to Jesus, in order to stay true to Him, follow Him, and enjoy Him daily, we gotta always **REMEMBER WHY** we chose to belong to Him in the first place.

1. (v.23) We follow Jesus because He...

*(Romans 5:1) Peace with...

*(Isaiah 26:3) Peace with...

*(Colossians 3:15) Peace with...

*(James 3:17) Peace that grows in us the more we...

*(Philippians 4:6-7) Peace no matter...

*(John 14:1-3) Peace with your...

2. (v.23) We follow Jesus because He...

4. (v.23) We follow Jesus because He...

5. (v.23) We follow Jesus because He...

6. (v.23) We follow Jesus because He...

7. (v.23) We follow Jesus because He...

*(John 20:28) Revere Jesus...

*(1 Peter 3:15) Obey Jesus...

*(Deuteronomy 8:10) Worship Jesus...

*(Psalms 136:3) Trust Jesus...

*(Revelation 19:16) Look for Jesus...

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor Kellan's message. As you discuss the questions, don't expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God's Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.

1. It is important to **REMEMBER WHY** we chose to belong to Jesus in the first place, in order to stay true to Him, follow Him, and enjoy Him in the present. Have you surrendered your life to the Lord Jesus as your God and Savior? Share how that happened. Why did you choose to follow Christ?

2. Pastor John shared seven reasons (more to come next Sunday) why we follow Jesus. Which one of those seven reasons most spoke to you personally and why?

3. Wow, when Jesus gives His peace to His people, there are a lot of different types of peace that come our way. How have you recently experienced the peace of God in your own situation? What steps can we take to experience more of God's peace in our hearts?

4. How would you describe the peace that Jesus gives to someone who is not a Christian? How is the presence of Jesus' peace in our lives a big part of our testimony to unbelievers?

5. **Psalms 26:12; 32:1** - *Bless the LORD when my foot stands on level ground. But no matter the times, bless the Lord!* What are these verses saying to you? How does it change us when we "bless the Lord" constantly. When you bless God, what does that look like?