

## NOTES

Scripture: *Mark 12:35-40, 2 Timothy 3:13-17, Romans 12:2, James 1:22-25, Matthew 23:23-24, 2 Timothy 4:3, 1 Timothy 1:3-4, Proverbs 3:5-6, and 1 Corinthians 8:1.*

## REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?

Did Chris step on your toes in his message? Why did you answer that way?

Can you think of a time when you missed seeing something that was right in front of you (like the Pharisees missed seeing Jesus as the Messiah)?

Chris said praise can become addictive. Have you experienced this in yourself or others? Why is this a problem?

**MY STORY**

What's a hypocrite? What do you dislike most about hypocrites? Do you think you ever act like a hypocrite? How? How do you fight against this?

Is there anyone you think of as a "religious show-off"? What about them makes you think this of them? Have you ever talked with them about it? Is there anything you can learn from them? Do you think there's anything they could learn from you? If you know of someone you consider a religious show-off, consider having a one-on-one conversation with them to see what you can learn from each other.

When you read or hear scripture, do you think of someone else who needs it? Or do you think of how this scripture is something you need to hear, consider, and allow to change your life? Or some combination of both?

"Answering the unanswerable is NOT deep Bible study." Do you agree with that statement by Chris? What then is deep Bible study?

Are you using your understanding of the Bible to grow in love, not judgment? Where are you overly judgmental? How do you love people you disagree with?

When you read the Bible, are you asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom to understand what you're reading? Do you ask Him to show you how you can be obedient to what you're reading? Do you go in with the mindset that you will do everything you can to understand and obey what God is telling you through His precious Word?

**DIGGING DEEPER**

*Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.*

**Read Proverbs 3:5-6**

What does it mean to trust the Lord with all you heart?

How do you lean on your own understanding? How do you balance being guided by the experience you have from living life with submitting all of your ways to the Lord? Can you do both?

How does God make our paths straight? How has He made your paths straight?

What paths are you walking right now in your life that you need the Lord to make straight?

**Read 2 Timothy 3:13-17, Romans 12:2, James 1:22-25**

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Is God calling you to change through these passages? If so, how?

How do you think God can bless you in what you do (as James said) by applying these passages to your life?

**BRINGING IT HOME**

Have you ever read something in the Bible and thought, “Wow, I wish I could cut that out because I just don’t like it or I’m uncomfortable with it?” When you encounter something like this in the Bible, what do you do with it? Do you ignore it? Do you try to look up what “experts” are saying who redefine that passage? Or do you accept what God is saying and choose to wrestle with your own rebellion and disobedience and ask God to make your heart and mind like His?

“The bible wasn’t written to just fill your head; it was written to change your life.” What do you think God is saying to you through this statement Chris made in his message?

The goal is not for God to become more like you but for you to become more like Him. Honestly, reflect on that statement for a minute. Would you truly say this is your goal?

We need to get personal for a minute...

I want you to think of the below questions. Answer the ones applicable to you and with each consider: is it consistent with what the Bible teaches, and is it consistent with how Jesus treated the people closest to Him?

- How am I treating my wife or husband?
- How am I treating my kids?
- How am I treating my parents?
- How am I treating my friends? My co-workers? My roommates? Someone else important to me?

Is there anything you're holding onto that blinds you to Jesus? If so, what is it? Share it with your Life Group or find someone you trust to share it with and pray together about it.

How can you put on guard rails to protect your heart against the traps of power, money, and ego? What are those guard rails for you?

What specifically do you need to submit to God today? What is God calling you to do or get involved in today?

**Your Next Steps are:** **1)** How are you going to answer God's call for what you need to submit to Him and what He's calling you to do? **2)** If you're not doing life with other believers, join a Life Group – it's not too late (<https://thevineyard.churchcenter.com/groups>).