Think on These Things...

READ Deuteronomy 29:10-15; Deut. 30:15-20; Gen 1:29-31, 3:1-3 together in preparation for your Group Discussion:

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message?

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study... What main point[s] spoke to you the most from this week’s sermon?

THE RECIPE FOR HAPPINESSII (Deut. 29-30)

Pastor Ray spoke to us this week in his sermon entitled “The Recipe for Happiness II” from Deuteronomy 29-30. As we continue on this topic, we must realize that God our creator knows what brings life and joy to each one of us. Yet He has given us a freewill and we must choose to either follow Him and experience life or choose death and experience the curse. We are commanded by our loving God to “Choose Life.” What will you do? Let’s dive into this very relevant study today...

1. Pastor Ray reminded us of a very powerful and sobering truth, “We all Stand Before the Lord all of our lives.” As you read Deut. 29:10-15 discuss the following questions:

   a. How do you respond to the statement that we all “Stand Before” the Lord?
   b. In your opinion, what does it mean to “Stand before the Lord?” (Rom 14:12, 2 Cor. 5:10)
   c. According to Deut. 29:10-15, who else Stand’s before the Lord? (Name all the different people.)
   d. When you consider that you “Stand before the Lord” what kind of responsibility do you have, not only to God but to others? (cc. Eph. 5:15-17)
   e. Pastor Ray stated that every Christian Home should have a “Family Talk” to remind them of who we are and why we are Christians. Discuss ways that you have had the “Family Talk” with your family.
   f. How can you be intentional about continually sharing with your family the “why” of being Christians? Why is this important?
Growing Deeper in 2016

2. Mankind was created in the image and likeness of God. God has given each of us a free will and has set before us a Choice. God commands us to choose life. Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20, and discuss the following questions:

   a. How many of you have noticed that your children have a “will?” Discuss why it is so important to be intentional about sharing with your kids the truth of God’s word? (Deut. 11:19; Prov. 22:6)
   b. What are some ideas to make things relevant to our children?
   c. In Deut. 30:15-20 the Lord “commands” His people to obey Him and Love Him. Why do you think that the Lord uses such strong language and “commands us” to obey Him?
   d. What are the consequences of choosing to disobey the Lord? (Deut. 30:18)
   e. We have a good and Loving God who cries out to His Children “Choose Life.” What lengths has God gone through to make a way for people to escape judgment and experience life?

Growing Deeper in God’s Word...Life Lessons:

3. Pastor Ray made the point that God has given us 99.9% of everything that He created for our good and happiness. He has only held back .1% because it can destroy us. It all began in the Garden, read Gen. 1:29-31 and 3:1-7 and discus the following:

   a. According to Gen 1:29-31, what had God given to mankind and what had God pronounced about what He had given them?
   b. In Gen 3, the serpent was described as being more cunning than any beast of the field. Describe how the serpent was able to twist God’s word and deceive Eve…
   c. How do people get so focused on the .1% and miss out on the joy of the 99.9% that God has given us?
   d. How do you overcome the lie and not allow Satan to rob you of God’s blessing of life and truth and joy? (2 Cor.11:3-4; Matt. 4:1-11)

Applying God’s Word...What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss your answer with your group.

God has given us everything we need to have joy in our hearts. 2 Peter 1:3-4 states: “seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

Pastor Ray stated that our Testimony is a powerful tool and we must pass on to our children and others what God has done for us. Teach everyone in your group how to share their testimony and set a weekly schedule to allow each person to share their life changing story.