



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What is the most amount of money you have ever found in a public place and what did you do with it?

1. Read [Colossians 1:24](#), [Acts 9:15-16](#), and [Timothy 3:12](#). Pastor Tom quotes Chambers saying, "No healthy saint ever chooses suffering. He chooses God's will as Jesus did whether it means suffering or not." Share an example of this from your life, along with how it turned out.
2. Pastor Tom listed 3 questionable reasons why people serve; so others notice, for self-satisfaction, or so they can post about it on social media. Share which one you have seen most often. How can understanding [Colossians 1:25](#) help guide your motives to a Christ-centered approach?
3. Read [Colossians 2:1-3](#). Pastor Tom emphasizes how Paul's imprisonment did not hinder his vision for people because his focus was on up Jesus. What limits your vision for people and what steps can you take to focus up on Him, embracing *His* vision for people?
4. Reflect on times when you felt tired or exhausted from serving. How might asking, "What does God want me to do?" shift your focus from seeking energy to being energized by participating in God's will?
5. Read [Colossians 2:5-7](#) and [Mark 10:45](#). Pastor Tom shared two important points; Paul's focus was on Jesus, and because of that...on people, specifically, "...to rescue, redeem, and transform people's lives." How is God prompting you to step into alignment with His will by serving Him and His church?

Day One: [Psalm 61](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 30](#)

Day Three: [1 Samuel 12](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 61](#)

Day Five: [Acts 5](#)

This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



FOCUS UP

"FOCUSED ON SERVING"

Jan 21, 2024 Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



FOCUS UP

MESSAGE NOTES

"FOCUSED ON SERVING"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

...what we're focused on impacts everything about our lives personally, internally, spiritually, _____, and relationally.

Note [Colossians 1:23b](#)

So how can we determine if our focus on serving is _____ and rightly motivated?

1. How Do I Navigate _____?

Paul understood that serving Jesus isn't always simple, _____, and fun...(note [Colossians 1:24](#); [Acts 9:15-16](#)).

Following and serving Jesus includes navigating hardships, opposition, and even _____ (note [2 Timothy 3:12](#)).

All of us rejoice in sufferings...just other people's sufferings (not in the _____ sense...).

No _____ saint ever chooses suffering. He chooses God's _____ as Jesus did whether it means suffering or not. (Chambers)

2. What's My _____ for Serving?

- Why do I serve Jesus?
- So others will _____?
- For my own self-satisfaction?
- So I can _____ about it on social media?

Note [Colossians 1:25](#)

When you know Who you're serving and why you're serving, it gives you _____ to keep going when your kids don't appreciate you, when people don't say *thank you*, when it was a tough week at work/school.

You and I are _____ by God to serve Him and others (note [Ephesians 2:10](#)).

Mystery = something once _____ but now revealed (note [Colossians 1:26, 27](#)).

Christ lives in you.

This is in the Old Testament, but people wrongly assumed they would find God in the Promised Land, or in the _____, or in the Temple (note [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)).

Jesus in us is the *hope of glory* (living life as God _____).

3. Do I Have a _____ for People?

Paul's vision was _____ (note [Colossians 1:28](#)).

Perfect = _____

Vision tends to _____ when facing unexpected challenges/obstacles.

Paul was in _____, but his vision hadn't shrunk.

When our focus is up on Jesus, He will help our vision for people and what God can do in someone's life to stay _____, be compelling, and unshrinkable.

4. Where Will I Get the _____ I Need From?

Note [Colossians 1:29](#)



1 Come every Sunday

2 Be part of a group

3 **Serve on a team**

The important question isn't, *How will I get the energy to get more done?*, but *What does _____ want me to do?*

When it's my work, I end up using _____ energy. But when it's His work, I end up using _____ energy. (Holladay).

5. Is it About _____?

Paul was focused on people because it is people that are the focus of _____ (note [Colossians 2:1-3](#)).

Paul wanted people to know Jesus and not be _____ away from Him by false teaching/teachers (note [Colossians 2:4](#)).

Because his focus was up on Jesus, he also focused on people, because the focus of Jesus is to rescue, redeem and _____ people's lives (note [Colossians 2:5-7](#)).

Am I focused UP?

- If you're focused up on Jesus, then you'll also be focused on _____ Him and His church.
- Note [Mark 10:45](#)

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital* or hard copy). *MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back



MESSAGE NOTES

"FOCUSED ON SERVING"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

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Note [Colossians 1:23b](#)

So how can we determine if our focus on serving is healthy and rightly motivated?

1. How Do I Navigate Suffering?

Paul understood that serving Jesus isn't always simple, easy, and fun...

(note [Colossians 1:24](#); [Acts 9:15-16](#)).

Following and serving Jesus includes navigating hardships, opposition, and even persecution (note [2 Timothy 3:12](#)).

All of us rejoice in sufferings...just other people's sufferings (not in the mean sense...).

No healthy saint ever chooses suffering. He chooses God's will as Jesus did whether it means suffering or not. (Chambers)

2. What's My Motivation for Serving?

- Why do I serve Jesus?
- So others will notice?
- For my own self-satisfaction?
- So I can post about it on social media?

Note [Colossians 1:25](#)

When you know Who you're serving and why you're serving, it gives you strength to keep going when your kids don't appreciate you, when people don't say *thank you*, when it was a tough week at work/school.

You and I are called by God to serve Him and others (note [Ephesians 2:10](#)).
Mystery = something once hidden but now revealed (note [Colossians 1:26, 27](#)).

Christ lives in you.

This is in the Old Testament, but people wrongly assumed they would find God in the Promised Land, or in the Law, or in the Temple (note [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#)).

Jesus in us is the *hope of glory* (living life as God designed).

3. Do I Have a Vision for People?

Paul's vision was expansive (note [Colossians 1:28](#)).

Perfect = mature

Vision tends to shrink when facing unexpected challenges/obstacles.

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When our focus is up on Jesus, He will help our vision for people and what God can do in someone's life to stay fresh, be compelling, and unshrinkable.

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The important question isn't, *How will I get the energy to get more done?*, but *What does God want me to do?*

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