SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“The Marks of True Spiritual Service”

Romans 1:8-13

Pastor John Miller

Main Point: The servant of the Lord must have the right heart.

Introduction

- Pastor John mentioned that there are many reasons that people serve the Lord. What are a few?

Understanding

1. **A Thankful Heart. Read Romans 1:8.**

    a. What specific detail about the Roman believers' faith moves Paul to give thanks to God through Jesus Christ?

    b. Since Paul gives thanks for the Romans he had never met, how does this challenge the way we think about gratitude? Who in your life or in the broader church are you genuinely thankful for?

    c. Why do we often fail to be thankful in our circumstances?

2. **A Servant's Heart. Read Romans 1:9a.**

    a. Explain how we “serve with (our) spirit in the gospel of His son?”

    b. How does viewing our daily service as an act of worship change how we handle tasks that feel repetitive or unappreciated?

c. What can we do to guard our hearts against seeking personal recognition or letting pride creep into our service?

d. The sermon pointed out that the Greek word for "serve" in verse 9 carries the idea of worship. What does it mean to you personally that serving God and worshiping God are not two separate activities?

e. What can we learn from Colossians 3:23-24?

3. A Prayerful Heart. Read Romans 1:9b-10.

a. Paul's desire was to go to Rome. How did God actually arrange to get him there?

b. How should we navigate situations where God's answer to our prayers look very different from what we anticipated?

c. What does it look like to practically "put feet to our prayers" and actively participate in being the answer to someone else's prayer?

d. Paul's prayer life was described as consistent, personal, specific, and submissive. Which of those four characteristics is most challenging for you, and why?

4. A Longing Heart. Read Romans 1:11-12.

a. Even as an apostle, Paul recognized his need for mutual encouragement from the church. Why is Christian fellowship a two-way street?

b. How do we mutually encourage one another with our faith?

c. Why do you think it can be difficult to admit that we need to receive ministry, not just give it?

5. **A Purposeful Heart. Read Romans 1:13.**

    a. What does spiritual fruitfulness look like in the everyday life of a Christian?

Application

- What are your main motivations when you serve the Lord, and how can you cultivate a thankful, servant-hearted attitude this week?