

“King James English”

June 2012

Hymn “Send me, Lord” VU572
 Send me, Jesus, send me, Jesus,
 Send me, Jesus, send me, Lord.

 Lead me, Jesus, lead me Jesus,
 Lead me, Jesus, lead me, Lord.

 I will go, Lord, I will go, Lord,
 I will go, Lord, I will go.

Scripture *Romans 12:1-8 (King James Version)*

 I beseech ye therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

 And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Prayer Let us pray – O God, we feel your hand on us, we feel your presence around us and within us. As we journey toward the future we rejoice in your goodness and seek to share the special gifts you have given to each of us. Thank you. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Lesson In the early 60’s, when I was completing my undergraduate degree in engineering at the University of Toronto, I lived on campus in the Knox College residence for a couple of years. Some laymen of the Presbyterian Church of Canada were attempting to organize men’s clubs called Presbyterian Men. The focus was to be on Bible study. We started a small club in the residence. As I recall, the group consisted of students who were going into the ministry - and me.

 The first passage of scripture we studied was Romans 12:1-8 from the King James Version of the Bible. I had not previously been involved in Bible study, except as a Sunday School student and teacher. It was a new and meaningful experience. The

words seemed to have a special meaning for me and the first verse became my mantra, in “King James English”. ‘I beseech ye therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.’

Under the guidance of an older man a group of ten laymen from three different rural Presbyterian congregations decided to get together as Presbyterian Men. We were all in our 20’s and 30’s. Some were married and some were single. We were eager for Bible study. Our get-togethers were spiritually uplifting experiences as we shared our understanding of the Bible passages and what they meant in our lives. A book published by the American organization of Presbyterian Men was used as our discussion guide as we came together once each month. I continued in these meetings for several months after my graduation until I moved to a new job more than 200 miles away. It was just the right study for the right men at the right time.

Sometimes Bible study is the magnet that will bring a group of men together. Sometimes it’s specific passages such as Paul’s letters. Sometimes it’s the language of the Bible translation, such as “King James English”. But, regardless of the choice of text, or language, Bible study with your peers tends to move men closer to becoming followers and then disciples of Jesus.

Discussion

When was the last time you participated in a group Bible study?

What Bible passages have a great deal of meaning for you?

Prayer

Let us pray – Creator God, you have made us to think, to study, to love, to steward, and to serve. Guide us as we seek our paths while we continue our faith journeys. We will go! This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.