

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

PATIENCE, PERSEVERANCE, & FAITH IN UNCERTAIN TIMES 2 Samuel 2 & 3

Main Thought: 2 Samuel 2 & 3 teach us to have patience, perseverance, and faith in God's plan during uncertain times.

1. A _____ OF THE TEXT...

- 1) David anointed _____ over Judah in Hebron.
- 2) David reaches out to _____.
- 3) _____ between the house of David and Saul
 - (1) Abner commander of Saul's army makes Ish-Bosheth king over _____
 - (2) Joab _____ of David's army
 - (3) The two sides _____ in "Gibeon"
 - (4) The two sides in _____ all day
 - (5) The two sides reach a _____ of sorts
- 4) The house of David grows _____
- 5) _____ between Abner and Ish-Bosheth
- 6) Abner negotiates with David
- 7) Abner convinces _____ to unite with David
- 8) Joab _____ Abner

2. APPLICATION POINTS FOR _____...

- 1) The delay in David becoming Israel's king is not unusual, but it is typical of the way God brings about His _____ and purposes.
- 2) It is in times of waiting that many have failed in their faith and _____ to the Lord.
- 3) Satan often _____ by trying to capitalize on divine delays.
- 4) Times of waiting on the Lord are designed to be those times when our faith is stretched and our _____ with Him is enhanced.
- 5) _____ on the Lord is not a time for passivity.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 2 Samuel 2 & 3 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. Why did God instruct David to go up to Hebron? What is significant about that place?

8. Who was the first group to recognize David as their king? Why?

9. Why did David reach out to the men of Jabesh Gilead? What did he say and promise to them?

10. Who is Abner? Who is Ish-Bosheth? Who is Joab?

11. How did the war between the house of David and the house of Saul get started? What eventually led to a truce of sorts?

12. Why did Abner eventually decide to negotiate with David?

13. Why did David what his wife Michal returned to him?

14. How come Joab killed Abner? What did David do as a result? Why was that important?