

Study Questions  
May 9, 2010  
Plans to Prosper?  
God's Hope for the Church

Jeremiah 29:11 *'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.*

- 1) We at times live in our sin and are unrepentant.
  - a. Romans 2:4-6 *Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? <sup>5</sup>But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, <sup>6</sup>who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS*
    - i. What does it look like to think lightly of the kindness of God?
    - ii. What leads us to repentance? How does this correlate with the wrathful God who sends His own children into exile?

b. 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

i. What are we told to do if we are in sin and unrepentant? For how long can we confess our sins before we are no longer forgiven?

ii. What passages of Scripture come to mind as you read this?

2) God, out of His love, disciplines us through various means in order to bring about our sanctification, to make us mature believers.

a. Hebrews 12:7-11 *It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup>But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? <sup>10</sup>For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. <sup>11</sup>All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but*

*sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

- i. What significance does verses 7 and 8 carry?
- ii. What should our attitude be toward discipline?
- iii. What is the result of enduring God's discipline?

3) We are aliens in this world as our home is in the heavens and one day Christ will return and take us out of this world to our inheritance in the heavens.

a. *John 17:15-17 I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

- i. How does viewing our lives now as exiles change the way we live our lives, or does it even make a difference?
- ii. Why does Christ ask for us to not be taken out of this world, but to remain in it?
- iii. What does it mean to be sanctified? How is this accomplished?

4) A vast majority of our church leaders are preaching a message that has been diluted and there is little call for repentance.

a. 1 Peter 2:1-3 *1But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2Many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned; 3and in their greed they will exploit you with false words; their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.*

- i. What do you suppose are some examples of “destructive heresies?”
- ii. Will these false teachers be evident? How can one tell the difference?
- iii. Why is it important for a teacher to teach the truth of Scripture? What happens when he doesn’t?

5) A remnant of believers will be saved.

a. Matthew 22:14 *Many are called but few are chosen (called out)*

- i. What does it mean to be called?
- ii. How do you explain being called out of the called?
- iii. What does it take to be called out of the called?