



## Worship Study Guide for the week of March 13, 2016



### WEPC Small Group Network

Questions about this week's study guide? Contact Kevin Greene, [kevin@wepc.org](mailto:kevin@wepc.org)

WEPC's Small Group Network meets in homes across Richmond every week to participate in Jesus Christ's mission to Richmond, enjoy fellowship, study God's word, pray together, and explore the fruit of the Gospel on our lives. Simply put, these groups are small enough to be the church to one another, and they serve as bridges between WEPC and the community where God has planted us. It is a place where the church can go deeper in the worship of God and further in Christ's mission.

Note to Discussion Leaders: Have members read the Bible passage in the group meeting. This is a "worship discussion" guide, and our reflections and applications are grounded in Scripture. Read through this guide before meeting with the group. You do not need to work through the whole guide. Decide which points would be most helpful for the time of meeting together, and use them as a starting point for your time together.

### Sermon: *The End of All Things is At Hand*

This week, Steve Shelby preached on [1 Peter 4:7-11](#).

The end of all things is near. Four commands and one goal. Let's look at the goal first and then the four commands

- What is our Goal? That in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ (*Heidelberg vs. Westminster Q & A*)
- "What is your only comfort in life and in death? That I am not my own but belong body and soul to my faithful savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid..." (*Heidelberg*)
- "What is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy him forever." (*Westminster*)
- Self-controlled
- Love is preeminent
- Hospitality
- Gifts (who gave them?)

1. Be self-controlled and sober-minded so you can pray. Don't panic, pray. Don't allow yourself to be intoxicated by.....
2. Love is the preeminent issue for the Christian "above all" This love is earnest because it forgives "covers a multitude of sins". I will always give you the benefit of the doubt.

"To think that only faultless people are worthwhile seems like an incredible exclusion of almost everything of deep value in the human saga. Sometimes I can't believe the narrowness that has been attributed to God in terms of what he would approve and disapprove....The only obligation I recognize is to say what I believe to be true and to say it with kindness. I believe that is how a Christian conversation should proceed." (*Marilynne Robinson*)

3. Hospitality without grumbling. That is an absolute necessity and a painful duty because some might take advantage of you.
4. Use your gifts. Whatever you are good at, you are good at it because God gave it to you. There is no room for jealousy or pride.

## Going Deeper in God's Worship

Reflect on the text together. [Hear the sermon here.](#)

- 1.) What is true about God's character, promises or work?
- 2.) What does the Scripture teach you about yourself or others?
- 3.) Are you encouraged to follow Jesus in His mission? How?

**Reflect on the whole of Sunday's liturgy together. Locate this week's [Order of Worship here.](#)**

- 1.) Was there an element of the worship service that you would like to share with the group?
  - *A Scripture verse that was read?*
  - *A prayer that was prayed?*
  - *A song that was sung?*
  - *A sacrament that was administered?*
  - *A way that glory was given to God?*
  - *A way that someone encouraged you?*
- 2.) Did the Holy Spirit convict, change, or encourage you in any way you wish to share with the group?
- 3.) Is Jesus leading you or the group to take a specific risk to minister the Good News to Richmond? Your neighbors? Your co-workers? Your family and friends?

## Going Further in Christ's Mission

- 1.) Have the Scripture text open in front of you as a guide to your prayers.
  - Spend time thanking God and giving Him glory.
- 2.) Ask the Lord for vision, strength and faith as followers of Jesus Christ.
  - Count on the work of the Holy Spirit for change.
  - Ask for God's forgiveness and grace to repent of sin and trust Jesus.
  - Pray for the world, our country, Richmond, and the Church.
  - Pray for members of your group, family members, or co-workers, neighbors and friends.

*Kevin Greene, 2016*