

RELENTLESS PURSUIT



MESSAGE NOTES

Danny Anderson
Relentless Pursuit, week 3

Character: the sum of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing

We come to know our true character by watching our own behavior.

- Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. - Matthew 7:20

Where do our actions come from?

- “Behavior is driven by the hidden or secret dimension of human personality, from the depths of the soul and body, and what is present there will escape.” - Dallas Willard
- Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. - Proverbs 4:23

Our character is the main source of pain in our lives.

- For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son... - Romans 8:29
- My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you. - Galatians 4:19
- “Spiritual formation in Christ is the process whereby the inmost being of the individual takes on the quality or character of Jesus Himself.” - Dallas Willard

How does this happen?

Spiritual growth is caused by action, in particular, the habits we form.

- “Character is formed through action, and it is transformed through action, including carefully planned and grace-sustained disciplines.” - Dallas Willard
- ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. - Philippians 2:12-13

1. Memorize scripture.

- Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. - Romans 12:2

2. Get around people who desire above all else to be transformed.

- Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” - 1 Corinthians 15:33
- “You are the average of the five people closest to you.” - Jim Rohn
- “The primary goal of spiritual life is human transformation.” - John Ortberg

WEEKLY BIBLE READING			
One Year New Testament	SUNDAY Luke 22:54 - 23:12	MONDAY Luke 23:13-43	TUESDAY Luke 23:44 - 24:12
This Week →	April 26	April 27	April 28
WEDNESDAY Luke 24:13-53	THURSDAY John 1:1-28	FRIDAY John 1:29-51	SATURDAY John 2:1-25
April 29	April 30	May 1	May 2
WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE: ROMANS 12:2			

FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

1. Character is defined as, “the sum of features and traits that form the individual nature of some person or thing.” How can we come to know our character, or the character of another person?

READ Matthew 7:20. Share with the group two positive “fruits” (features or traits) you feel make up your character. What aspects of your character would you like to change?

2. Danny said, “All that we say, think, and do comes from within.” What point was Danny trying to make? READ Proverbs 4:23. Share a time when something that ‘came from within’ caused either pain or trouble in your life. Have you taken steps to keep that from happening again? If so, why?

3. READ Romans 8:29. God’s ultimate plan is to change our character so that it matches the character of Jesus, but there will be very little change if we do not take action with God. READ Romans 12:2. Why do you think Paul tells us a change in our thinking leads to transformation of our character?

READ Romans 8:6. How do your thoughts effect your actions? Share a time when you let negative thoughts and emotions lead you to negative action. Looking back at that situation, what are some positive thoughts you could have had that might have led to positive actions?

4. Danny gave us two actions we can take to help us do our part in the transformation of our character – memorize scripture and get around people who desire above all else to be transformed.

Is there a specific scripture that has changed the way you deal with life, and helped you to have a more godly perspective? If so, please share with the group. Are there aspects of your character you would like to change now? If so, what scripture could you commit to memory to help you transform your character?

READ Hebrews 10:24. How has this group encouraged, challenged, and supported you to change? What specific steps can you take this week to help others take on the character of Jesus?



Welcome to EMMANUEL CHURCH

Greenwood Campus

April 25 & 26, 2015

GUEST INFORMATION

Please fill out a Connection Card and drop it in the offering bucket. Thank you for being our guest!

As our guest, please do not feel obligated to participate in our offering. Instead we hope that you will receive our gift to you of a comfortable experience and a message that makes sense to you.

LARGE PRINT and HOLE PUNCHED BULLETINS are available at the Information Center in the lobby.

If you have any questions, please visit the Information Center. We would love to meet you!

FOR CHILDREN

Our nurseries and children’s program offer a warm, caring, and fun atmosphere for your child. They will be well-supervised and have age-appropriate FUN! Check-in begins 25 minutes before each service.

Our Family Room (by the Information Center) is an option if your child is not comfortable in his or her age-appropriate classroom, or if he or she is restless or fussy in the main auditorium. A private Nursing Mothers Only room is available as you exit the auditorium to the right near the restrooms. A live video feed is available in both areas so you won’t miss the service in progress.

LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE

BANTA

759

GREENWOOD

2,984

TOTAL IMPACT

Both Campuses

Attendance: 3,743

Offering: \$97,276

March Attendance Averages: Banta - 727, Greenwood—3,014

March Giving Average: \$91,582

\$91,000 per week fully funds our 2-Year Vision.