



December 1/2, 2018

Sermon Title: Speaking the Language of God

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: Daniel 2:20-21 (NASB) Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.

1. To **fully** grasp God's truth we need to see it **fleshed** out in others. That's when it ceases to be theory and becomes reality.
2. Instruction in **how** to live as a believer isn't effective until we're convinced it makes **sense** to believe!
3. It's an awesome thing to have **accurate insight** into who God is, what He has said and is saying, and what He's up to in the world! (Hebrews 1:1-3; Proverbs 21:12)
4. There's a big difference between actually **knowing** God as He has revealed Himself and **assuming** to know God and then making Him in our own image!
5. When we **don't know** what lies ahead we should affirm what we **do know** about God. It places everything else in **perspective**. (Acts 4:23-31)
6. The most blessed and spiritually secure people are those who focus on God's **character** in their thoughts and speech - no matter what is **unfolding** around them! (Psalm 1)
7. As targets of unrelenting spiritual warfare in a media-obsessed culture we can easily slip into thinking more like our **secular** neighbors than the **saints** who preceded us.
8. We often pray for changed **circumstances** when what we really need is a changed **perspective**.
9. Just as our thinking influences our **speech**, our **speech** influences our thinking. (Proverbs 12:13-14; Matthew 12:34)
10. Speaking the language of God in the community of **faith** positions us to be confident as we live in the community of **humanity**.
11. Rather than bringing every thought **captive** to Christ, God's people can become **prisoners** of their own feelings.
12. Our prayers shouldn't **depend** upon our circumstances; our prayers should teach us to learn **dependence** upon God!

Growth Group Questions

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WARM-UP

1. Do you venture out and shop for deals on Black Friday? Why or why not?
2. Is the “Christmas Season” primarily a *peaceful* or *stressful* time for you and why?

DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. Have you ever had a dream you believed was from God? If so, what was the *message* and what was the *impact*?
3. Are you going through a difficult time right now that is requiring you to trust in the *character* and *promises* of God? If so, share the situation.
4. In what ways do you feel vulnerable and susceptible to cultural influences and why?
5. How confident are you as a follower of Jesus as you live your everyday life in the “community of humanity?”

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today’s message.

- Hebrews 1:1-3; Proverbs 21:12
- Acts 4:23-31
- Psalm 1
- Proverbs 12:13-14; Matthew 12:34
- Exodus 34:6-7
- Jeremiah 29:13; Deuteronomy 4:29
- Ephesians 6:11-12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

PRACTICE

- If you were to describe God’s character to an unbeliever in one, brief sentence, what would you write? (Write your sentence and share it with others in the group).
- Spend some time alone with God asking Him to increase your desire for more of Him (Psalm 42:1) and what tangible steps you can take to further develop confidence in your identity and in His character. Listen for answers and journal what you hear.