

WEEK THREE: WHERE ARE THE PEOPLE? BIBLE STUDY 5 (pp. 50-ff)

Theme: An Ordinary Sunday Morning Romans 12:1-21

We are called to offer our lives as a **living sacrifice** to God. Paul suggests that the ways of the world are NOT those to be followed by Christians. (vs.9 -13) And in 12:21, Paul identifies the marks of a Christian & concludes with this challenge: *do not be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.*

Christians NOT identified as those who gather & worship at a specific time & place.

Book Reflection

3 groups whose experiences on Sundays are **not** like ours: *those who work on Sundays, sportsmen / athletes (traveling sports), and do-it-yourselfers*
Do we know anyone in these groups?

What is our reaction to these 3 groups? What could/should be our response?

Vocabulary

Networks: groupings of people who come together with a similar interest or hobby

Final Thoughts

Is it possible what the 3 groups named in this chapter do on Sundays does **not** reflect how they feel about God?

BIBLE STUDY 6 (pp. 58-ff)

Theme: Networks & "Third Places" Matthew 9:35-38

Matthew tells us Jesus went "among all the cities and villages"; he spoke of a huge harvest but few workers. Is our potential harvest "huge?"

Book Reflection

More and more, **networks** are displacing neighborhoods as sole sources of community. Home and work are 2 places many spend much of their time. For many of us, the "third" place we spent time was/is the church. Today, **new "third places"** are emerging. *And these are the places the church is called to "plant expressions" of the Christian faith - places that are increasingly "homes away from homes."*

Vocabulary: *Third places* – Where people spend most of their time other than at home or work. Many congregations may not match characteristics of such places.

Final Thoughts Are there 2 or 3 "third places" that overlap with our own neighborhoods? Do any of us belong to significant **networks**? "Open your eyes.

& notice the fields are already ripe for the harvest." (John 4:35)

Closing Prayer