

# ONWARD

Spring Semester – Week 8

Sermon: “Expositors of the Self” (2 Peter 1:16-21)

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**THE WIN:** Keeping people in your group encouraged and protected from “burnout.” There seems to be a growing trend discussed on the internet about “Zoom Fatigue” and being “Zoomed Out.” With everyone isolated and moving to virtual, there is an increase screen time. Too much screen time and drain you and even harm your sleep habits. See my latest video called “Growth Groups: ‘Zoom Fatigue’” for how to help your groups through this.

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Corporate Prayer is coming up in two weeks. It will be live on Facebook again.
- All information and updates can be found on the church website. You can also access the digital bulletin there about weekly activities for encouraging the church.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

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**After everyone has signed on to the Zoom call:**

1. How is everyone doing?
2. If you had to watch one movie every night for the rest of quarantine, what would you watch?

## DISCUSSING THE SERMON

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**Before discussing pray briefly, then SAY,** “We are back in our 2 Peter series. The title of the sermon was “Expositors of the Self.” This first question is a very general question:

**QUESTION:** Did anything from the sermon stand out, challenge, or encourage you?

**After you have discussed the introductory questions SAY,** “These are great thoughts to begin our discussion. Let’s dig a little bit into what Pastor McKinney preached.”

**Then ask a volunteer to read the 2 Peter 2:1-3. After they read it SAY,** “This sermon was all about false teachers and how we are to discern when we are listening to a false teacher. Pastor McKinney made the distinction between an ‘Expositor of the Word’ and an ‘Expositor of the Self.’”

**QUESTION:** In what way did you find this distinction helpful, if at all? Explain.

**QUESTION:** It was pointed out in the sermon that false teachers are “among you,” and what this looks like today is through media and technology. In what way do you find this relevant during our current season?

**SAY,** “Pastor McKinney talked about “expositors of the self” as teaching in a way that is *detached* from the Bible and *dissociated* from Christ.”

**QUESTION:** Without naming names, in what way have you personally seen or wondered if someone was teaching in this way? Explain.

**QUESTION:** What are ways in which we can guard ourselves from being overly suspicious of gifted teachers in the church?

## GOING DEEPER

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**SAY,** “Pastor McKinney ended the sermon with two practical questions to always ask yourself when listening to a teacher of the Word: 1) *Are your Bibles open?* 2) *Are your hearts burning?*”

**QUESTION:** What about these two questions helps you navigate our current times? How are you going to practically listen carefully online to different teachers?

## PRAYER

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**Things to pray for this week. You can either take prayer requests or pray through the following points.**

1. Pray for continued endurance and longing for community amongst us
2. Pray for the elders to continue discerning the Spirit's leading through this season.
3. Pray for our hearts to remain generous to sustain the ministry of the church