

Small Group Interaction Questions:

MEANWHILE: The Church that lives and waits
“A Reason For Hope: Broke!” 3/15/09
1 Peter 3:13-15

Dear Friends,

Fear is everywhere. The current financial picture is grim enough on its own, but it is being fanned into an inferno with every day's news cycle. Our banks, workplaces, stock market, homes and churches are all under enormous financial pressure. This has created much fear, anger, and uncertainty. What are we to do? Peter writes that, as people belonging to God who are aliens and strangers here on earth, we should not “fear what they fear.” Among our many fears, financial worry is the easiest to diagnose. I hope your exploration and dialogue about this subject can be candid and helpful to one another. In many ways we genuinely are all in this together. But, God is not surprised. He specializes in difficult situations.

Pastor Roger

- 1) Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. Individually, take a few minutes to write down 3 or 4 of your biggest personal fears, besides the fear of financial meltdown. Share them with the group. Though you don't have time to explore each one, briefly mention some of the ways belonging to Christ helps the believer avoid fearing as the world fears.
- 2) What are some of your concerns that have prompted healthy financial adjustments? What are they?
- 3) Beneath the obvious fears of unemployment and financial scarcity, what are the fears that men face in this financial crisis? Is it any different for women?
- 4) How does the fear that the world has at this time differ from the type or level of fear that a believer has at times like this? What are practical, spiritual encouragements that we should remember and put into action?
- 5) Read Isaiah 41:10 and discuss how this can be practically applied to you and to others in the body of Christ at such a time as this.