

Sermon-Based GC Discussion Questions

5/4/2025 – The True Gospel

Main Point of Sermon: In a world filled with distorted and deceptive versions of the gospel, we must know and believe the one true gospel revealed in Scripture—for it is the only message that saves.

Launching / Icebreaker Question:

- When you hear the word "gospel," what comes to your mind?
- Have you ever been misled by something that seemed true or good, but wasn't? How did that experience affect your trust?
- What stood out to you the most from this week's sermon?

Primary Scripture: Ephesians 2:10

Discussion Questions:

- According to Ephesians 2 and the sermon, why is it important that the gospel begins with God's character and not with us? What does "But God" in verse 4 communicate about salvation?
- What does it mean that we were "dead" in our sins (v.1)? How does this challenge the idea that people are generally good and just need to improve?
- How does Paul describe our spiritual resurrection in Christ in verses 5-6? What does it mean to be "made alive together with Christ"?
- The sermon explained that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works (vv.8-9). How does this truth dismantle the counterfeit gospel of legalism or religious performance?
- Why is it essential to understand that only those who trust in Christ are saved (v.7)? What did the sermon say about the danger of universalism (the counterfeit gospel that all roads lead to heaven)?

Application Questions:

- The sermon said, "God is not a means to an end—He is the end." In what ways are you tempted to treat God as a means to a comfortable or successful life? How can you reorient your heart to treasure God Himself?
- Which of the six counterfeit gospels mentioned in the sermon have you personally encountered, believed, or struggled with?
 - To summarize each of the counterfeit gospels in contrast with the true gospel...
 1. The gospel of prosperity says: "God is a means to success." The true gospel says: "God is the treasure — even in suffering."
 2. The gospel of moralism says: "You're good enough — just be better." The true gospel says: "You are spiritually dead and need resurrection."
 3. The gospel of progressivism says: "Jesus is a helpful example." The true gospel says: "Jesus is the only sufficient Savior who satisfies God's justice."
 4. The gospel of legalism says: "Salvation = faith + your works." The true gospel says: "Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone."

5. The gospel of universalism says: “Everyone goes to heaven in the end.” The true gospel says: “Only those who trust in Christ are saved — the rest remain under God’s wrath.”
 6. The gospel of easy believism says: “Say a prayer and you’re in — no change needed.” The true gospel says, “Saving faith is a surrendered life, forever changed by Jesus.”
- How has your understanding of salvation by grace through faith freed you from either pride or guilt?
 - The sermon closed with a call to repent, believe, and be transformed. What step of obedience or surrender do you sense God is calling you to take right now?

Prayer Focus:

- Confess any ways you've believed or lived according to a distorted gospel. Ask for a deeper trust in the sufficiency of Christ and a renewed joy in the true gospel.
- In light of Mother's Day, pray for all the women and mothers of Cornerstone Church.