

Discussion Questions



Sermon Summary

This sermon explored the personal nature of the gospel—how God takes us from death to life through Jesus Christ. The gospel isn't just information; it's the power of God that transforms us from spiritual death (influenced by sin and the devil) to spiritual life (seated with Christ in heavenly places). This transformation happens not through our works, but through faith in Jesus, who was born and raised to be King.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Gospel

1. **The Definition:** According to Romans 1:1-5, what are the key components of the gospel? Why is it significant that Jesus was "born to be king" and "raised to be king"?
2. **Power, Not Shame:** Paul says he's "not ashamed of the gospel" because it's "the power of God for salvation." What might make people ashamed of the gospel today? Have you ever felt hesitant to share it?

Recognizing Our Condition

3. **Dead, Not Sick:** The sermon emphasized that we were "dead" in sin, not just "sick." Why is this distinction important? How does it change our understanding of what salvation means?
4. **The Devil's Influence:** Ephesians 2:2 describes us as walking "according to the prince of the power of the air." How does recognizing Satan's influence change your perspective on sin—both your own and others'?

Derived from Sunday morning sermon via Pulpit AI

5. **Personal Reflection:** The sermon asked, "Do you believe God loves you?" How would you honestly answer that question? What makes it difficult to grasp God's "great love with which He loved us"?

Experiencing Transformation

6. **Three Actions of God:** God made us alive, raised us up, and seated us with Christ in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:5-6). Which of these three truths is hardest for you to grasp? Why?
7. **Living in God's Power:** What does it mean practically that we are "seated with Christ in the heavenly places"? How should this reality affect our daily lives?
8. **The Wedding Story:** The sermon shared about a couple who chose Ephesians 2:4-6 as their wedding passage because they had experienced death and wanted to experience life. Where in your life do you need God to bring resurrection power? (Marriage, relationships, work, mental health, etc.)

Faith, Not Works

9. **Grace Through Faith:** Ephesians 2:8-9 says salvation is "not of yourselves...not as a result of works." Why do we naturally gravitate toward trying to earn God's favor? What "works" are you tempted to rely on?
10. **Created for Good Works:** Verse 10 says we're created for good works that God prepared beforehand. How do we balance "not by works" (v. 8-9) with "created for good works" (v. 10)?

Key Takeaways

Have group members share which of these truths resonated most with them:

- **The gospel is about Jesus**, who was born and raised to be King and now rules in our lives
- **We were dead**—influenced by the devil and driven by sinful desires—unable to save ourselves
- **God's motivation was love**—His "great love with which He loved us" while we were still dead
- **Transformation is complete**—made alive, raised up, and seated with Christ in heavenly places
- **Salvation is by faith alone**—not by works, so no one can boast
- **Faith, hope, and love** flow from the gospel and will be restored to the world only through the gospel
- **We are created for good works**—the gospel that transforms us personally will flow out to our community and world

Practical Application

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

1. Reflect on Your Salvation Story

- Journal about your spiritual condition before Christ (death) and after Christ (life)
- Spend time thanking God specifically for His mercy, love, and power in saving you
- Share your story with someone this week

2. Combat "Dead" Thinking

- Identify one area where you're living as if you're still "dead" rather than alive in Christ
- What would it look like to live in that area with resurrection power?
- Ask someone to pray with you about this specific area

3. Examine Your "Works" Mentality

- List the things you're tempted to add to Jesus (right Bible translation, church attendance, good behavior, etc.)
- Confess any ways you've been trying to earn God's favor
- Practice saying, "Jesus is enough" when you feel the pressure to perform

4. **Meditate on God's Love**

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10 daily this week
- Each day, focus on a different phrase about God's love and mercy
- Ask God to help you grasp "the width and length and height and depth" of His love (Ephesians 3:18)

5. **Live from Your Seated Position**

- Throughout the week, remind yourself: "I am seated with Christ in heavenly places"
- When facing challenges, ask: "How would I respond if I truly believed I have access to all of God's power?"
- Practice making decisions from a position of spiritual authority rather than spiritual poverty

Closing Discussion

Final Question: The sermon mentioned that faith, hope, and love will be restored to the world only through the gospel, but it starts in us. How can our small group be a place where the gospel transforms us personally so we can impact our community?

Closing Prayer

Use Paul's prayer from Ephesians 3:14-21 as a guide:

- Pray for strength through God's Spirit in the inner self
- Pray that Christ would dwell in hearts through faith
- Pray for comprehension of God's love
- Pray to be filled with all the fullness of God
- Praise God who is able to do far more than we ask or imagine