

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"RESURRECTION GOSPEL" | 1 COR 15: 1-11 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

When did you first hear the gospel?

"The Gospel is Good News and is about Jesus" 1 Corinthians 15: 1-4

The good news for people is that Jesus died for our sins and was raised from the dead, which was the Scriptures are all about. This is what believers "stand" on. **What does it look like to "stand" on the gospel? How does seeing the Bible as all pointing to Jesus impact how someone understands it?**

"The Gospel is Historical and Doctrinal" 1 Corinthians 15: 3-8

The death and resurrection of Jesus had lots of eyewitnesses and early documentation, making it a historically reliable event. And the reason He did this was to save people from sin. **What impact does believing Jesus died for sins have? What does it mean for a believer that Jesus' death and resurrection are historical?**

"The Gospel is Personal and Practical" 1 Corinthians 15: 9-11

The gospel is for each person, and each person has the chance to experience grace like Paul did. It gives purpose and hope for each person's situation and suffering. **Have you ever experienced grace like Paul did? How did it impact your situation?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus died and rose from the dead according to the scriptures and this was witnessed by many and changed so many lives. This is the core of what Christians believe. **How central is the gospel to your life? What are ways you have struggled to stand on the gospel? Ask God to give you the faith and dedication you need to hold on to the gospel in your situation.**

Resurrection Gospel

I. Announce:

- A. **Welcome:** those online & in the sanctuary.
- B. **Slide1 Fit Out Update:** *I have some good news* we have given almost \$15,000 to the **Youth Center**, the fellowship areas **outside** the Youth Center, **and** the **Calvary Cafe** through the *Fit Out Catalog*.
1. Shane, our middle-schl leader, gave the ministry update at our staff meeting this last Tuesday. This last week they did not have enough chairs in the modular they were meeting in for the amount of kids who were there (good problem). *We know we need a space that allows our youth ministries to grow and have a place to call home each week. Thank you for helping us make that a reality.*
 2. There are still many things that can be purchased over the next few weeks, **so** please either go on the app, QR code behind me, **or** on our website to *see all the options* to help support our youth. (paper in back)
- C. **Slide2 At Risk:** There will not be an At Risk meeting this month.
1. But in July *Dr. Brenda Navarrete* will be sharing her class on **Building Resiliency in Children**, as well as her experience in Spain with Vanguard working with an NGO called *Fiet Gratia*. She'll be sharing about some of the dynamics of Human Trafficking in Spain and all the unique geographical, historical, and political factors that contribute to the reality of human trafficking there.
- D. **Slide3 This Wed Night** (6:30pm) AP *Approaching God Through Bible Reading*. AP said, *"We can have many different attitudes when we approach God through the Bible, but if we are open and show Him trust, we can be both humbled and in awe as He transforms us."*
- E. **Prayer:** Lord, we know the Bible's main character is **You!** Lord I pray for those here or listening in today, who **don't** know You ... I pray they will meet You in a *beautiful & deep way*. **And** for those of us who **do** know You ... I pray You'll reveal

Yourself to us *in mind blowing fashion.*

II. Slide4 Intro: Resurrection Gospel

- A. **Graveyards** remind us of the brevity of life. **Resurrection** reminds us of the brevity of death. David Garland
- B. **Background:** Some in Corinth were thinking, *how can an earthly body that is both physical and perishable be suitable for a heavenly realm.* (*read* vs.12,13)
 1. So Paul begins to argue not only for **Jesus'** bodily resurrection, **but our own.**
- C. **Slide5 Read All** - vs.1-11.

III. Slide6a [1] THE GOSPEL IS ... (1-4) READ

- A. **Gospel** means *Good news.*
 1. From the Old English **gōdspel**, from gōd/good + spel/news/story/announcement.
 2. Greek word εὐαγγέλιον (U-on-gily-on). **When the Greeks would go to battle, back home they would wonder what the outcome was. So they'd wait on a messenger to arrive to give them the update. They wondered, *Will we be conquered? Will we be enslaved? Did we win?* The messenger, often on foot, came back and reported the **Good News**, *We triumphed! We are victorious!* That was our Gk word εὐαγγέλιον.**
 3. It's the **good news** that we are not slaves. That we've been liberated. That Christ has won. The battle is over. *He has done what you could never do!*
- B. **What do we do with this Information? ... 3 things:**
 1. **You received this.** If you're not *following Christ*, we want you to **receive** the **good news** about **Jesus**. **That** you would **welcome** Him. **That** you would **enjoy** a saving relationship with Him.
 - a) For those of us who have already received it, like the Corinthians, *we need to be reminded of it all the time.*
 2. **You stand on it**, and stick with it. **Our world is unstable.** In our **slippery world** we need to **keep air feet.** *What will you stand on?* We have a lot of difficulties in this life, **but in the gospel** is where we can **take our stand.**
 3. **And by which we are being saved.** Remember the **3 tenses of salvation:**

- a) **Slide6b** (Past) We have been saved from our sin (justification).
 (Present) We are being saved daily from sinning (sanctification).
 (Future) We will be saved 1 day from ever sinning (glorification).
- b) So here Paul is talking about **the present tense *being saved daily from sinning***.
 So continue to trust the gospel and believe it. [this step is *never completed* in this world]

IV. **Slide7a** [2] **THE GOSPEL IS ABOUT JESUS (3,4) READ**

- A. There is no *Good News* if there is no **Savior**. *“The Gospel is not preached if Christ is not preached.”* John Stott
1. It shouldn't surprise us because **His name means God Saves**.
 2. And this Good News isn't just for when we **die**, **but** now for how we **live**.
- B. **Slide7b** Matt Papa (a modern-day hymn writer) wrote in his song, *I Set My Hope*.
When this life of trials test my faith, I set my hope on Jesus.
When the questions come and doubts remain, I set my hope on Jesus.
For the deepest wounds that time won't heal, There's a joy that runs still deeper.
There's a truth that's more than all I feel, I set my hope on Jesus,
I set my hope on Jesus. My rock, my only trust. Who set His heart upon me first.
I set my hope on Jesus.
- C. **Slide8a** **The Scriptures** referred to here is **the OT**. He's telling us the OT is pointing us to **Jesus**.
1. If you're not familiar with this, you might look at the Bible as **a bunch of unrelated parts and stories**. **But** within all the lil stories is 1 big story. The bible is a unified book of redemptive history. **And** it's hero is **Christ**.
 2. **And the Scriptures tell us ... He died** for our sins. He was The Lamb of God, the ultimate sacrifice. He was Isaiah's suffering servant.
 3. **Slide8b** You want to read the Bible in reference to the ministry of Jesus. *“There's a Messianic wind that blows through the pages of the God breathed bible.”*¹
 4. To read the OT **w/o** Christ's ministry in view, is like reading a mystery novel *that doesn't have the last chapter*.

¹ Tony Merida.

5. Slide8c D.A. Carson put it, “*The whole Bible pivots on 1 weekend outside of Jerusalem about 2000 years ago.*”

V. Slide9a [3] **THE GOSPEL IS HISTORICAL (3-8) READ**

A. It’s about events that happened in human history, as you read *the past tense* here. (that He **lived**/by implication of what follows, He **died**, was **buried**, **raised**, and **appeared** 4x’s in text).

1. This is a distinguishing feature of our faith. The older Eastern religions don’t require the existence of their founder for the beliefs and practices that they hold, because often they are *philosophies*. But Christianity lives and dies on the historicity of Christ’s res.
2. Slide9b Even the most radical opponents of Christianity defend the historicity of the person of **Jesus**. Including agnostic NT Professor Bart Erhman in his book *Did Jesus Exist* said, “*Jesus did exist, whether you like it or not.*” Well I like it :)

B. Then He was **raised** and **appeared** to many.

1. **Cephas** - **Love** doesn’t get better than ... *When one can think more of the heartbreak of the one who wronged him, then of the hurt he himself experienced!* (Wow!)
2. **500+** - think end of Mt. 28 great commission, on a mnt in Galilee, *some disciples doubted, not the 11*. So maybe 100’s at that event?
3. **James**/Jesus’ brother - an unbeliever during Jesus’ ministry (it’s hard to believe your brother is God). **Post res James became a believer and a leader in the church.**
4. Then **Paul’s** experience on the Damascus rd. **This is only 20 years later so many still alive. Go ask them!**

C. So the gospel is rooted in human history. *A real cross, real blood, a real tomb, a real res.* And it didn’t happen *privately* in the middle of no where.

1. Paul told Agrippa, *these things didn’t happen in a corner.*

D. **The gospel is Historical**, it is the hinge on which all of human history turns.

1. Slide9c Christianity requires faith, but it is not a leap into the dark, but actually a leap into the light.

VI. Slide10a [4] THE GOSPEL IS DOCTRINAL (3) READ

- A. There are certain things that you need to believe. He not only died but *died for our sins*.
 1. Martin Luther, *Jesus Christ never died for our good works. They were not worth dying for. But He gave Himself for our sins, according to the Scriptures.*
 2. There were a lot of people who died by crucifixion, what's different is **why** he died, *for our sins*. **He took our place** on the cross. **He bore the punishment we deserved**. **So that we** can have a saving relationship with **God**. 2 Cor.5:21 *He_(God) made him_(JC) to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him_(JC) we might become the righteousness of God. The great exchange.*
- B. Slide10b Listen to this: our big problem is ... *only righteous people go to heaven, and we're not righteous*.
 1. So we are saved **not** by our performance. We need another person's righteousness. **We are saved by our acceptance of His righteousness**.
 2. Hymn, "*I hear the accuser roar Of ills that I have done; I know them well and thousands more; Jehovah findeth none.*"
- C. *Jesus **obeyed** the law of God. He **satisfied** the justice of God. He **removed** the sins from the presence of God. He **redeemed** us from the curse of God. He **reconciled** us to God. All of it as an expression of **the grace** of God.* Tony Merida
- D. **And all doctrine** should always lead us to **praise**, not intellectual arrogance, *not pride of what we know but of who **He** is*. **See the doctrine we believe *fuels* our lives**.
 1. Slide10c That's why at the end of the chapter he takes us there, *oh death where is your sting ... but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*. - The gospel is not only intellectually credible, but personally satisfying.

VII. Slide11a [5] THE GOSPEL IS PERSONAL (1-3, 11) READ

- A. **You have to do something with the Gospel**. Notice *he* preaches to you (1-3,11 10 x's)
- B. The question put before us is, **What will you do with the gospel?**

1. We all have a different journey but the same results, you are a new creation. *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* 2 Co 5:17
- C. I remember when I first heard the gospel, it was so amazing.
 1. When I heard it wasn't about me but about God. It wasn't about what Brian had done, but what Jesus did for me. It wasn't about Brian trying to be good enough, but Jesus being more than enough.
 - a) **Slide11b** *The Gospel fused into Christianity is the only religion where it's not about you, it's about God.*

VIII.Slide12a [6] **THE GOSPEL IS PRACTICAL (9,10 & 12-58) READ**

- A. The Gospel is **Practical** it does something day-to-day.
- B. The gospel brings about **Humility** (9,10a). Paul, *I am the least...unworthy.*
 1. John Newton, *the former slave trader, who wrote amazing Grace* said, *"I am not what I **ought** to be, I am not **what** I want to be, I am not what I **hope** to be in another world; but still I am not what I want **used** to be, and by the grace of God I am **what I am.**"*
- C. The gospel brings about **Hope** (the rest of the ch. esp.19). The **hope** of a bodily res and what *the future* means to us.
 1. Our future resurrection is what gives us joy in the midst of sorrow. **Slide12b** D.A. Carson says, *"I'm not suffering from anything a **good resurrection** cannot fix."*
- D. **Joni Erickson Tada**, 74 yrs old. *quadriplegic*. 2010 diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. after mastectomy / chemotherapy, declared cancer-free in 2015. 2018 was diagnosed again with cancer. in July 2019 declared cancer-free.
 1. She writes in her book, *When God Weeps* says, *"I can still hardly believe it. I, with shriveled, bent fingers, atrophied muscles, gnarled knees, and no feeling from the shoulders down, will one day have a **new body**, light, bright, and clothed in Righteousness-powerful and dazzling. Can you imagine the **hope** this gives someone who is spinal-cord injured like me?"*

Or someone who has cerebral palsy, is brain-injured, or has multiple sclerosis? Imagine the **hope** this gives someone who is manic depressive. No other religion, no other philosophy **promises new bodies, hearts, and minds**. Only in the message of Christ do hurting people find such incredible **hope!**”

2. Paul said, *For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worth comparing with **the glory** that is to be revealed to us.*
3. **We** are people of the resurrection. *Receive it, stand on it, and stick with it until you see **Jesus**. It will all be worth it.*

E. Invitation:

1. Rom.10:9 *that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has **raised** Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
2. **Grace** is not reserved for good people; **Grace** underscores *the Goodness of **God***.
3. Again *the gospel focus* is on **Jesus'** performance for **us**, not on our performance for **Him!**

F. Keywords: resurrection, hope, gospel.