

LIFE GROUP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Encountering the Gospel through Jesus May 19, 2024

Summary

Pastor Dale began a new series entitled *Rediscovered: Unveiling Our Identity in Christ*, which focuses on the book of Colossians. In this message, he talked about the gospel's transformative power — the gospel is more than religious practices; it is the good news of Jesus Christ, who offers forgiveness, love, the presence of the Holy Spirit and eternal life. Signs that the gospel has truly transformed us include genuine joy, spiritual fruit, unwavering confidence in God's grace and a personal relationship with Jesus. The gospel is not merely about Jesus; it is Jesus Himself, who imparts joy, power and grace.

Scripture

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people — the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world — just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.... To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me. Colossians 1:1-8, 27-29 (NIV)

Let's Start

If you could have dinner with anyone in the Bible (besides Jesus), who would it be and why?

Gratitude and Prayer

How has God worked in your life since we were together?

Let's Talk

1. Have you ever felt like you were going through the motions in your faith without truly connecting with God? How did you overcome it?
2. Pastor Dale talked about four signs that the gospel "has" you:

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- Genuine joy in your life is a clear sign that you have truly embraced — and been embraced by — the gospel and its transformative power.
 - A true encounter with the gospel is evident when it manifests in your life as the power to produce spiritual fruit.
 - The gospel's true impact is seen when the deep awareness of God's grace produces a confidence in us that no amount of adversity can shake.
 - To experience the gospel is to be in a personal relationship with Jesus!
Have you experienced these signs? What are some signs in your life that indicate you have truly embraced the gospel?
3. Pastor Dale shared about the rewards God has for believers in our "heavenly account":
- **Eternal life:** *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23*
 - **An inheritance:** *... and we have a priceless inheritance — an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 1 Peter 1:4*
 - **A share in the glory of Christ:** *Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. 1 John 3:2*
 - **Rewards:** *If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. 1 Corinthians 3:14*
How do the rewards God gives us influence your perspective on life's challenges?
4. What does having a personal relationship with Jesus mean to you, and how does it impact your daily life?

Let's Act

How can you plant the seeds of the gospel this week?
