

**OCTOBER 23, 2022**  
**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**  
**ANASTASIS: THE DESTRUCTION OF DEATH**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11**  
**FALL QUARTER WEEK 7 OF 12**

**Getting to Know Each Other Better**

**1. How late is too late to sit down for a meal at a restaurant that is closing soon? Why?**

I would say anything after 30 minutes prior to closing is too late. I feel like the restaurant can take my order and get me my food within 15-20 minutes, that I can eat it in 15-20 minutes, and that I can be out of there within about 10 minutes after official closing time hits. I want to get some food but I don't want to be too selfish about it. I don't want the staff to have to stay too late and I don't want the restaurant to lose money on my meal because of any potential overtime they might have to pay.

Others may say that you can go in and sit down one minute prior to closing because the restaurant takes into consideration all of the issues I mention above as they run their business and that they are happy to have the income.

There are different ways to look at this issue. No need to spend a lot of time on it, but it is a fun question to consider, and how various individuals answer the "Why?" question will give your group insight into each other.

**Renewed by Grace/Equipped as Disciples**

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

**2. The definition and description of the gospel in the verses you just read might be the same - or somewhat different - than the definition and description presented to you when you came to believe.**

Just so you know, what I am ultimately going for here is a discussion of how the kingdom of God, and Jesus as King, is almost always completely left out of our explanations of the gospel and our calls to people to believe and be saved. We call people to repentance and to confess their sins, but we do not call them to enter into and subsequently live within the kingdom. We call them to receive Jesus as their Savior but we forget to mention that Jesus is also supposed to be their King. And while there is a clear call to be about leaving an old way of life, there is not always a real clear call to follow Jesus and be His disciple. (At least this is my observation of it all.)

- **In what ways is the definition and description the same as how it was originally explained?**

It is similar in that the definition of the gospel that I believed in had Christ dying on the cross for my sins. But interestingly enough, the other two components - that He was buried and rose again - were left out. The emphasis was always on His death on the cross to pay the price for my sins so I could avoid the wrath of God. (And I must say I wholeheartedly agree with this emphasis, but admit it was lacking because it did not include the other components mentioned in the verses.)

- **In what ways is the definition and description different from how it was originally explained?**

It is different in that the way it was originally explained to me not only tended to leave

out the burial and resurrection of Jesus, but it also left out the Kingdom of God! According to Mark 1:1 and Mark 1:14-15 the Kingdom of God is at the heart of the gospel.

- “1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.” Mark 1:1
  - One of the meanings of the title *Christ* is “anointed king, Lord, or Ruler.” Another is “savior.” Jesus was the long-awaited Savior and He was also the long-awaited King.
  - The gospel that was explained to me focused on Him as Savior and left out that He was also King.
- “14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Mark 1:14-15
  - The “gospel of God” is that the kingdom of God is at hand.
  - “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,” Colossians 1:13. This verse reminds us that we were transferred from one kingdom to another. This is almost never mentioned in gospel presentations.
- **If anything was different, what difference do those differences make in your understanding and application of the gospel? Why/How so?**

I won’t get into all of it here, but you can do some thinking on your own and some discussing with your group about what differences it might make in the life of a Christian (be they a new or seasoned believer) to know that the heart of what they believe has also to do with living in the kingdom of God with Jesus as King. Yes it is about having their sins forgiven. Yes it is about having the wrath of God appeased by the sacrifice of the Son. And yes it is about recognizing that Jesus is both Savior and Lord and that He demands obedience and submission to His kingly authority. Fortunately He is both patient and kind with us as we struggle in this area, but we should at least be struggling. If we are not, our understanding of the gospel is deformed to say the least, and perhaps a false gospel that is incapable of saving us, to say the most. The church in the West does not do anyone any favors by leaving out the passages like Mark 1:14-15 or by focusing on “easy believism.” Jesus is both Savior and King and that means some things. I hope your group will discuss some of them.

### 3. Review verses 1-5

- **What words and phrases stand out to you? Why?**
- **Did this message deepen your appreciation for the gospel in any way? If so, how so?**
- **Are there any ways in which you would like your appreciation of the gospel to be further deepened? If so, how so?**

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### 4. How would you like to apply this week’s message?