

“The Real Deal”

Danger that exists!

It is possible to embrace:

- Christianity without Christ
- Inspiration without repentance
- Grace without transformation
- Salvation without surrender
- Heaven without judgment
- Jesus as a helper, but not Jesus as Lord
- Comfort 'only' and reject tests or trials

Q1: Which Jesus do we believe in?

Mathew 16: 13-19 NLT

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.” ¹⁵ Then he asked them, “But who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

“Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Q2: Which Gospel did we receive?

1 Corinthians 15: 1-4 NLT

¹Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. ²It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—**unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place.** ³I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. **Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said.** ⁴**He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.**

1 Corinthians 15: 24 & 32-34 NLT

²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised **when he comes back.**²⁴ **After that the end will come,** when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power.

³² ...And if there is no resurrection, “Let’s feast and drink, for tomorrow we die!” ³³ Don’t be fooled by those who say such things, for “bad company corrupts good character.” ³⁴ **Think carefully about what is right, and stop sinning. For to your shame, I say that some of you don’t know God at all.**

Q3: What to do with what we have received?

Romans 1: 5-6, 16-17_{NLT}

⁵Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, **so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.**⁶ And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to **belong to Jesus Christ...**

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. **It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes**—the Jew first and also the Gentile. ¹⁷This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. **As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.**

- Repentance as a lifestyle
- Obedience over convenience
- Consistent/Total surrender to His authority
- Reverential and evidential fear of God (true worship)
- Witness Christ any/every time
- Serving is no longer optional

Q4: What is The Real Deal?

Jesus Christ - the Centre of 'it' all

Accept no substitute.

Preach no imitation.

Follow no lesser version of Jesus.

Christ-likeness is the real deal

Discipleship is the full package

Important Reminder from Last Sunday sermon

7 building blocks of Kingdom community

1. Understand God's Kingdom Matt.6:33 "...seek first the Kingdom"
2. Truth centred John 17:17 Jesus, "...teach them your word, which is truth"
3. Encouragement Heb. 10:24 "...think of ways to motivate one another..."
4. Sacrificial care Acts 2:44-45 "...shared everything they had, ...met needs"
5. Loyalty / trust Prov. 3:3 "Never let loyalty and kindness leave you..."
6. Faith activated Acts 13:2 "Set apart Saul and Barnabus..." (HS called)
7. "We are mission" Phil.1:5 "all... partners in spreading the Good News"

“The life of faith is lived one day at a time, and it has to be lived, not always looked forward to as though the ‘real’ living were around the next corner.”

Elisabeth Elliot

Discussion Questions

1. Which Jesus do we believe in?

Peter declared that Jesus is *“the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”* What is the difference between seeing Jesus simply as someone who helps us and recognising Him as **Lord**? How does our view of Jesus affect the way we live?

2. Have we received the whole Gospel?

We are warned against embracing *“Christianity without Christ,” “grace without transformation”* and *“salvation without surrender.”* Why can it be tempting to accept the parts of Christianity that make us comfortable while avoiding the parts that challenge us?

3. What difference should the Gospel make to our lives?

Romans 1 speaks about believing and **obeying** God; Dr Grace reminded us of repentance, obedience, surrender and serving. Which of these areas is most challenging for you personally, and why?

4. What does genuine discipleship look like in everyday life?

Dr Grace said, *“Christ-likeness is the real deal”* and *“Discipleship is the full package.”* What are some practical ways we can become more like Christ in our family, workplace, friendships and church?

5. Which of the 7 building blocks of Kingdom community do we most need to develop?

Truth, encouragement, sacrificial care, loyalty/trust, activated faith and mission, alongside **seeking God's Kingdom first**. Which one would make the biggest difference to our small group if we genuinely put it into practice? What could we do this week to strengthen it?

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