



# CONNECT GROUP NOTES

## Sunday 16.04.2023

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“Transforming power of Jesus“

### **Preacher**

Pastor Nathan Bean

### **Scripture**

“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed onto you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep (notice: death is redefined in light of the resurrection) 7 Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and this grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them - yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. 11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.”

1 Corinthians 15:1-11



## **Thought**

What is the world's understanding of Easter? The story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, seems to get lost in the noise of grasping for any concept of God in the season of Easter - evident in the TV shows and the grasping of anything that is remotely "Christian".

The resurrection of Jesus is like no other event in all of human history. It's an unchanged message that has been orally transmitted through eye witness accounts. The resurrection was circulated orally within 2-3 years in the early church.

The early church creed Vs 3 they heard, believed and put their trust in it . It had the power to transform their lives. These are the same men , who feared for their lives and were hiding from the Jews they encountered the risen Jesus and then are found boldly witnessing with no fear of death.

4 Statements in 1 Corinthians 15:

Jesus died

Jesus was buried

Jesus rose from the dead

Jesus appeared to many

This is the core of Christianity it is not a set of rules.. It is not advice.. It is not even the direction that is at the very core of Christianity, it is an event that has taken place in time and history and it changes your LIFE.... It is NEWS. Good news!!

15.1 Now brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.2.By this gospel you are saved.



This is news that changes your life to this day, it is news transmitted that has transforming power for individuals but not just in hearing the word this is not enough you need to be receiving, part 2 of v1 which you have received, believed, and bring into yourself and "taken" your stand this is the power of the gospel - you become the message you are not just parroting the message you receive.

The message of the gospel is not for self containing - out of you flow rivers of living water. The transforming power of Jesus He works from the inside out, we need not be fearful of how people are changed - it starts by them and us simply believing and receiving the message, Jesus died for my sins, Jesus was buried, Jesus rose again - this is the simple yet powerful truth that gives us hope that we need not be fearful of our future.

*"The message looks crazy when you try to fit it into any other way of looking at the world, but if you let it get inside you or perhaps we should say, if you stand inside it and look out at the world - then suddenly you see everything- startling, shocking sense, a sudden sense of clarity. This is what Paul means by the power of this good news. It does things to people. It transforms them . What's more, they find perhaps the oddest bit of all, but it was and is central - that this Jesus, this Messiah, becomes personally present and real to them . He is not just someone they are hearing about, it's as though He were standing beside them." - N.T. Wright*

These four simple lines ignited fire and faith vs 1-2 and transformed a group of people and changed their lives forever and we are still doing it these years later. At some point we must grab hold and believe and receive - it had power then and it has power now . I have not earned it, I don't deserve it but have taken the message and brought it into me.

It is a message of grace, and more grace, it is the power to transform us from the inside out. I believe it, I receive it. - I don't contain the power of the transformation, I become the message.



## **Discussion Points**

1. Do we place too much emphasis on knowledge and not receiving, believing and allowing the power of the gospel in ourselves to speak for itself?
2. How can we actively take the gospel with us and also pass it on to others ?
3. Is there an area in your life that you find difficult to receive the grace of God ?

## **Personal application + Prayer**

Father,

Thank you that you know my struggles and who I am, but you are always there for me. You forgive me and give me the strength to get back up again. Thank you for the transforming power of Jesus that is alive and working in my life everyday. I ask you now to help me become more aware of the transforming power of your word, that I wouldn't become a parrot but I would allow your word and love to richly dwell in my heart. That when I speak it would be with your love and kindness to those around me. That my life would be an expression of your grace and love to others.

In Jesus name,

Amen