

Growth Group Study : 28 April 2019

Theme : The power of the Gospel

Bible: John 20:19-31

Preached by Rev. Dr. Je Cheol Cook

Last week we held the Good Friday and Easter Sunday service. Take a moment to think about what the Good Friday and Easter Sunday mean to you.

In our group, let us explore what the Gospel means.

The word Gospel is εὐαγγελίου(Euangelion). εὐ(Eu) means good Angelion(αγγελίου) means news or messenger. The word gospel simply means good news. In the time of Jesus, the gospel was used in two ways. Firstly, for instance, a messenger will come before the king and announces his appearance. Secondly, after a nation wins in a battle or war, then a messenger announces the victory.

When Jesus died on the cross, he said, "it is finished." Explain what this mean to you?

After Jesus was resurrected, he appeared to Mary Magdalene and his disciples.

Read John 20:16-19. Why was the real reason that Jesus appeared to them?

Remind yourself of how they responded to Jesus.

Jesus showed himself to his disciples and continued to do the ministry of God on this earth. The Gospel, death and resurrection of Jesus started about 2000 years ago, but has continued until today.

What has the gospel brought us?

1. The gospel brought us P_____.

Read John 20:19. What does peace(shalom) mean?

It originally comes from the Hebrew word, Shalom, שָׁלוֹם (εἰρήνη in Greek), which means wholeness or completeness or perfection. Further, it refers to the absence of war politically and the absence of quarrel socially. Also, it ranges to physically good and healthy condition.

Read Romans 5:1, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Think back to the sermon on Sunday consider how God's shalom has continued until today?

Read the passage. And share with each other how this impacted on you.

Many people know Leo Tolstoy, a famous Russian writer and his book War and Peace. He was born and brought up as a nobleman and was proud of being rich. He wrote many books. However, he was not satisfied with this and realized that he could not find real happiness in his life even though he was renowned through his many books. His frustration continued. One day he encountered a farmer passing by a road in the country. In the eyes of Tolstoy, the farmer looked very peaceful. Tolstoy asked the man how he could be so peaceful. He said, "Once I learned to depend upon God, I felt that I was full of peace at all times." After this happened, Tolstoy decided to receive Jesus as his saviour and Lord. Later he met God personally and the

peace of God changed his life and there was no more distress and sadness upon him.

Consider what happens once we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour?

2. The Gospel brought us the H_____ S_____.

Read John 20:22 and John 14:26.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What is the main work of the Holy Spirit?

Holy Spirit is also called Counsellor. This comes from the Greek word, parakletos(Παράκλητος), which means helper, counsellor, advocate, and intercessor. First, the Holy Spirit is called intercessor. He intercedes between God and his people like a bridge. The Holy Spirit helps us to come to God while we are on the earth.

What happened when early believers of God prayed at the Pentecost (Acts 2)?

After the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit gave his believers two lessons.

First, the Holy Spirit helped them to remember that our sins are forgiven.

Read John 20:23.

Explain what this means to you?

Why do we need to forgive the sins of others?

What does forgive means to you.

The word, forgive originally comes from the Greek word, ἀφῆτε(arete), which means send away or let go. Once we sin against God or do not forgive the sins of others, sin comes into our body and makes trouble for us. However, if we believe in God and forgive others their sins, then the stress of sins will be sent away from us also.

The Second lesson, the Holy Spirit gave to us is that it helps us to have true faith through the Gospel, the good news. We are believers of Christ. And the question for us to answer is what does faith mean to us?

Read Hebrews 11:1 and John 20:25-29.

What does the original meaning of faith?

How could we have the true faith of God?

Finish by prayers.