GOD'S WAY TO HEAVEN

 GOD LOVES YOU and wants you to have eternal life with Him.

> John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

But most people aren't experiencing a meaningful life and aren't sure that they have eternal life because...

2. Man has a **SIN problem** which **SEPARATES** him from GOD. Everyone has sinned.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"

The good news is that JESUS CHRIST is God's solution to your sin problem. He is the ONLY way to heaven.

> 1 Peter 3:18 "For Christ also died for sins once and for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God..."

4. Therefore you must **REPENT** of your sins and place your **FAITH** in **JESUS** alone to save you.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the GIFT OF GOD; not as a result of works, that no one should boast."

Upon believing and receiving Jesus, you have a NEW LIFE with complete assurance of SALVATION.

> 1 John 5:13 "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

ccf) CHRIST'S COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

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Last Sunday's message

Resurrection: The Christian's Certainty (Part 1)

(John 20:19-23)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single greatest event in the history of the world. What was the first thing in our Lord's agenda when He rose from the dead? Relationships! He showed Himself to those whom He loved — His disciples.

- I. The peace of Christ bestowed (vv. 19-21a)
- a. Troubled hearts: Fear, anxiety, perplexity, and confusion

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he told his disciples that he would be leaving them and they could not come where he was going. Their hearts were troubled. They were anxious and confused. Jesus comforted them, "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1).

It is one thing to be told something and another thing when what you were told begins to happen. When the disciples gathered after the crucifixion, their hearts were even more troubled. The Messiah had died. The disciples feared for their own lives. Suddenly Jesus appeared to them. At first, they were startled and frightened.

b. "Peace be with you."

Jesus knew that His disciples' hearts were troubled. He came to them so that they would experience His peace and not just know about it. He showed them His wounded hands and His pierced side, reassuring them that they were not seeing a vision and that He had risen indeed. Gladness filled their hearts.

II. The greatest co-mission given (v. 21b)

The Father sent His Son on a mission. Our God is a missional God, and His church is a missional church. When the disciples encountered the risen Christ, it began an awakening in them that was fully realized later, on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God was poured on them. They were radically transformed. They went from being fearful of their lives to boldly proclaiming the gospel. They obeyed and participated in God's ongoing mission. This is possible only by God's Spirit.

III. The Holy Spirit imparted (v. 22)

The disciples, in themselves, were never capable of manifesting the presence of God and doing the work of their Lord and Master, Jesus. The Holy Spirit is indispensable. Just as God breathed life into Adam in Genesis 2:7, Jesus breathed on His disciples and imparted the Holy Spirit to them. Jesus brought His disciples in union with Him, just as He was in union with the Father. Our Lord imparted to His disciples His peace, His commission, and His Spirit, to strengthen their faith in Him.

REFLECTION/APPLICATION:

- a. Freedom from anxiety and fears as we appropriate the peace of Christ in our lives. Faith is at the core of our freedom from anxiety and fears. How? We submit to His will on a daily basis, whether we are in plenty or in want, in good health or bad, in life or death. Jesus knows your heart's troubles, and He bestows on you His peace. Anchor yourself in your relationship with Him.
- b. Participation in Jesus' mission, not just in the mandate of Genesis 1:28 for proper stewardship of God's creation. We are stewards of creation in our homes, workplaces and schools. These are also places where we are called to share in Jesus' ongoing mission to proclaim the gospel. Share the love and glory of the risen Christ to others.
- c. <u>Submission to the empowering of the Spirit</u>. We are all broken. We yield to the Spirit of God, who changes our hearts, heals our wounds from the past, and empowers us to love others as Christ loves us. As we grow into the likeness of Christ, we become His hands and feet, ministering to those whom we meet in the course of this life. This genuine and radical transformation in us is not possible apart from God's Spirit.

SHARING/DISCUSSION:

- 1. The risen Christ said to His disciples twice: "Peace be with you." In what area of your life do you need to experience the peace of Christ? Can you point out a promise in God's Word that you need to trust in order to receive His peace? Does this promise come with a command for you to obey? What hinders you from obeying this command? If you've stepped out in faith before with regard to this promise as it relates to the area of your life where you need Christ's peace, which example of His faithfulness to you can you recall to help you keep trusting His promise?
- 2. As the Father had sent Jesus, even so Jesus is sending us. How are you fulfilling the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) in your home and workplace/school? How about in other places that you frequent, e.g., the store, the gym, or the library? What are the hindrances to your being missional where the Lord has planted you?
- 3. Read Acts 1:8. The Holy Spirit transformed the disciples from being fearful to being courageous. He is also working to transform us into Christlikeness. Read Ephesians 5:18 and Galatians 5:16-25. Can we have Christlikeness apart from the fruit of the Spirit? Can we be effective witnesses apart from the Spirit's power? What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit or to keep in step with the Spirit? Are you always filled with the Spirit? Read 1 John 1:5-10. What breaks our fellowship with God who is light, or how do we grieve the Spirit of God? How do we continue to keep walking in the light and therefore walking in the Spirit?
- 4. Read Matthew 5:14-16. In what area of your life can you ask the Holy Spirit to transform you so that your light, as a follower of Christ, may shine before others and glorify the Father?



- Volunteers needed: audio/visual support, ushers, creatives, music team, NxtGen teachers/assistants, and finance. If you are interested, contact us at ccf.vancouverbc@gmail.com, thanks!
- ◆ A **Discipleship Group** or **DGroup** is a great opportunity to meet regularly with a small group of people from CCF to study the Bible, pray and support each other. Connect with us at contact@ccfvancouver.org and we will find a group for you.
- ♦ Invitation for public testimonies: Glorify God by sharing how He is working in your life! Get in touch with Pastor Benjie at contact@ccfvancouver.org or approach any of the servant leaders.
- ◆ Make sure to get your **parking pass** from the ushers. For directions to the parking area, please go to bit.ly/CCFV-Parking or ask the ushers.

Find out the reasons behind our priorities as a church and discover the purpose that God has called every Christ-follower to fulfill here on earth. OPEN TO ALL!

The CCF DNA classes will be held from 12:15pm to 1:45pm.

If you're interested to join, please inform your DGroup leader or register at bit.ly/ccfvdnareg

CCF DNA

• MARCH 18 • APRIL 15 •
• APRIL 22 • MAY 6 •
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- ◆ Please use **CCF tithe envelopes** (available at the ushers' table) for ALL tithes, offerings and donations. If you're giving via cheque, please write it to **CCF Vancouver**.
- ◆ You can now give online! Just go to ccfvancouver.org/give to donate. Thank you!