

# The Sermon Connection

## Connecting Sunday's Teaching to Everyday Living

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The Sermon Connection is a weekly handout to help you apply Sunday's sermon content to your everyday life. It is designed to give you additional insights and practical tools for applying the teaching throughout the week.

The application, reflection and connection questions may also serve as a springboard for discussion in your small group, your family time, or in one-on-one conversations.

### The Real Questions of Christmas "What Did Jesus Do?" 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 Dr. Calvin Lamar Brown, Sr. December 15, 2019

Pastor Calvin continued our 2019 Christmas series titled "The Real Questions of Christmas" with a message titled "What Did Jesus Do?" We have already looked at "Who is Jesus?" and "Why did He come?" Next week we will look at "What Does He Want?" These questions of Christmas need to be asked and answered by every human being. The answers to these questions of Christmas are readily available to everyone and they are able to provide hope and comfort for our unanswered questions.

The text for Calvin's message was 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. This passage occurs in the context of Paul's defense of a literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus, which is the basis of the hope of every Christian for bodily resurrection of his or her own someday. Christ's bodily resurrection is also the basis for the gospel (good news).

The gospel is both simple and complex. One way to illustrate this paradox is to consider the simplicity and complexity of electricity. Electricity is mysterious and powerful, yet so necessary for the simplest of daily activities. Electricity is generated in a distance, travels to a local station, and then makes its way into our house. Enough power resides there to blow the house to pieces, yet a very intricate inter play of devices (fuses, transformers, etc.) moderate the power, so that even a child can access its power by flipping a light switch. The gospel seems quite the same, in a way. The complexity and power of the gospel is such that it can satisfy the righteous standard of a perfect, holy and just God toward all of the humanity, which in the billions and billions; yet, it is simple enough to be accessed by even a child, through simply believing it is true.

First, I will present how the gospel is the linchpin of our faith, for without it, we have no real hope (vv. 1-2). Second, I will present the nuts and bolts of the gospel and their significance (vv. 3-4). Finally, I present how the gospel, namely the resurrection of Jesus Christ, has been revealed to world for all to see and believe (5-8).

E-CHECK: Embracing Intimacy With God

## **READING AND REFLECTION:**

**Read Isaiah 9:1-7**

**What were the circumstances for Judah in this passage?**

**Why was their proposed alliance with an enemy nation an affront to God?**

**What ways do we put our trust in man instead of our faith in God?**

**How is God's grace portrayed in this Old Testament passage?**

**How is God's grace extended to us in the New Testament?**

## **PERSONAL APPLICATION:**

If you were to die today where would you spend eternity?

If your answer is Heaven, then upon what do you base your answer?

If your answer is Hell, then upon what do you base your answer?

In a sentence, what is the gospel?

Do you believe it?

Have you shared it with someone?

Will you commit to sharing it with someone this Christmas season?

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTION:**

When you meet with your small group or gather with your family this week, read Isaiah 9:1-7. Discuss the historical context of the passage (see Reading and Reflection). Next, discuss how the coming King is described. Would this have provided hope to Israel? Does it provide hope to us today?

## **KEY POINT:**

**Believe, receive and stand firm in The Gospel.**

## **RESOURCES:**

[One-Year New Testament Bible](#) (Available at the Information Table on Sunday mornings)

[Mere Christianity](#) by C. S. Lewis

[The Case for Christ](#) by Lee Strobel

[Evidence That Demands A Verdict](#) by Josh McDowell