

THE MAIN THING: 'The Amazing Wonder of the Spiritual World' –Pastor Gordon Dirks
4/5, 2013

May

The most amazing wonder of all is not a brilliant invention or some spectacular display in the heavens. It is not some dazzling monument or some amazing human achievement. The Bible tells us that the most amazing wonder of all is actually a person, the Lord Jesus Christ. When we link up the story of our life with His amazing life, we discover that our life can become an amazing and wonderful story too.

PURSUE RELATIONSHIP: *Opportunities to connect and pray as a group*

1. Share with others in the group what 'amazing' scene or wonder of the natural world you have witnessed.
2. Or, what is an amazing 'spiritual' event you have witnessed?
3. What was your response? How did this event draw you closer to God?

PURSUE GOD: *Time that is devoted to the Word of God*

1. How do the Scripture verses highlight the 'amazing wonder' of the Lord Jesus Christ? (see sidebar)
2. Pastor Gordon quoted many deep questions which people ask. (e.g. Why do I exist? Is my life truly of value? Can I have true freedom from my own destructive tendencies? Is there a friend on whom I can rely forever? What will the second chapter of my life be like?) What are other questions that you have heard asked? How do the above passages answer these questions?
3. Which aspect(s) of the 'amazing Jesus' has impact for you? Why?
4. How prepared are you for your own death, or for the 'final wonder'?

PURSUE MISSION: *Seek to be the community of God's people in your community*

1. 'Jesus invites us into a mission of eternal significance.' Describe someone who has demonstrated living 'all in' for Jesus.
2. How can you discover mission in your life and live it out this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

1. What practical difference could it make on a daily basis to know and experience Jesus' love for you?
2. How do you need to draw strength from the fullness of Christ living in you to deal with some pressure or challenge this week?

THE WORD (NIV)

Jesus is our Creator: Colossians 1:15-20, 27; 2:9

Jesus loves us: Rom 8:38,39; Eph 3:18-19; 1 Jn 4:9-10

Jesus liberates us: Luke 4:18; Jn 8:32, 34, 36

Jesus is with us—a forever friend: Jn 14:23; 15:14-16

Jesus shares His divine life with us: Jn 10:10; Phil 4:13; Col 1:19; 2:9-10; 2 Peter 1:3

(Inner peace and true Joy: Jn 15:11; 14:27; 16:33)

Jesus invites us into a mission of eternal significance: Matt 28:19; Jn 15:16; 20:21

Jesus makes it possible for us to spend eternity with Him: Rom 6:23; 2 Tim 1:10; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Jesus' final wonder when He appears: Roman 14:11; Phil 2:10-11; 1 Thess 4:16-18; II Thess 1:7, 10; Titus 2:13

Colossians 1:15-20

The Supremacy of the Son of God

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

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Human beings have always been amazed by the wonders of this world—a brilliant invention or awesome monument, some spectacular display in nature or an impressive human achievement. The Bible says what is most amazing is not a wonder at all; it is actually a person, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, who defeated sin and death. (Jn 17:3-4) When we link the story of our life with His amazing life, our life becomes an amazing and wonderful story too.

The Lord Jesus Christ answers our deepest questions:

Why do I exist? Why am I here? Jesus is our Creator and the Creator of all things. God willed us into existence; we were created for Him. (Jn 1:1-3, Col 1:15-20; 2:9; Rev 4:11)

Is my life really worth something? Jesus' divine love satisfies our deepest longings; we are of such great worth that He died for us. Jesus is the lover of our souls. His love is never-ending, now and forever. (Rom 8:38-39). His love is so unique and immense we cannot comprehend it. (Eph 3:18-19) His love is true love. (1 Jn 4:9-10)

Can I experience true, lasting freedom from my own destructive tendencies and from the penalty of sin? Jesus came to set us free, liberating us from the chains of our sinful nature. (Lk 4:18; Jn 8:32, 34, 36)

Is there a friend on whom I can rely and who will be with me forever? Jesus is with us, a forever friend who does not abandon us to face life's challenges alone. (Jn 14:23; 15:14-16)

Is it possible for me to connect with God on an intimate level? Jesus died not only to forgive our sins, but to give us life to the full. (Jn 10:10). He shares His divine life with us. We can experience His life in us, for us and through us. (Jn 14:20; Col 2:9-10; Phil 4:13; 2 Pet 1:3). Jesus' divine life takes residence in us giving us inner peace and true joy. (Jn 14:27:15:11; 16:33)

Does my life have lasting significance? Jesus invites us to join Him in a mission of eternal significance—introducing people to Him and helping them become fully devoted followers of Jesus. (Matt 28:19; Jn 15:16; 20:21)

Is there life for me after I die? What is the second chapter of my life? Jesus makes it possible for us to spend eternity with Him. Rom 6:23; 2 Tim 1:10; 1 Pet 1:3-5)

The final and most amazing wonder will be when Jesus returns to earth. We will marvel at His sudden, spectacular appearance; every knee will bow before Him. (Rom 14:11; Phil 2:10-11; 1 Thess 4:16-18; 2 Thess 1:7,10; Titus 2:13)

Now we can live a life of significance and freedom by loving, praising and serving God, communing with Him, while eagerly anticipating Jesus' glorious return. Then we will be with Him for eternity.