



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS for Week 3 - Eternity

Read 1 Corinthians 1:50 -54 and 2 Corinthians 4:15-18

1. Church history teaches us that at various times Christians have fallen into the error of 'over-realised eschatology'. In plain English, this phrase describes the idea that all the physical blessings of the new creation are available to us right now in this life. **Discuss what you think of this kind of thinking in the light of what Paul says in the first passage? When do Christians achieve complete victory? When can Christians expect complete physical healing?**
2. **Do you think the guarantee of an eternity of imperishable, immortal life of victory helps us cope with physical suffering now? Hint: Consider how we are told it helped Jesus in Hebrews 12:2-3.**
3. You may have heard a Christian say, "Its not about the numbers." **Discuss the validity of this statement in the light of 2 Corinthians 4:15. What do you think the ultimate motivation for evangelism is?**
4. **Looking closely at 2 Corinthians 4:16b-18, what are all the reasons Paul gives us to encourage us to focus on eternity and not on the present?**
5. Paul says in verse 16a that 'we do not lose heart'. It is clear from this that he assumes that if we do focus on eternity and not on the present life, we will come across difficulties that might cause us to lose heart. **Discuss what difficulties in ministry arise when we focus on eternity and not on the present. How easy do you think it will be to preach a gospel of eternity in a culture that demands instant gratification?**
6. Over the course of this building campaign we have concentrated on the three most important things to us at North Coast Church: Jesus, People and Eternity. **As you consider the gospel of Jesus Christ as a whole, discuss to what extent you think this is a fair reflection of what should matter the most. What do you think we are missing? How do you think we should ensure that we keep the 'main thing, the main thing'?**
7. **Spend some time in prayer for our Building Campaign. Ask God in particular that if this building helps us pursue our vision He will be so kind as to give it to us. Ask God to move the hearts of our people to give sacrificially. Ask God to make our vision (which is really the vision He has given us) happen:** We see Jesus Christ standing with crowds of people, from Perth and beyond, made alive by His Spirit through His gospel, and delighting in Him for all eternity to the glory of God the Father.