

Life Group Notes

“Life beyond the curtain”

Scriptures: Mark 15:33-41

1. In which way did the curtain of the temple (see Mark 15:38) act as a separation or barrier between God and people? See also Ex. 26:30-33; Leviticus chapter 16.
2. Stuart spoke about the temple and the curtain separating us from the glory of God and protecting us from the guilt of sin. What sort of things cause you to feel separated from the God? Is there a difference between true and false guilt?
3. What was the significance of the temple curtain being torn into two from top to bottom when Jesus died? See also John 19:30 “It is finished” (Aramaic word is ‘tetelestai’ meaning ‘payment in full’). Read also Eph. 2:11-18. In which way did God bring an end to the law with all its commands and regulations and open up a way to God for non-Jewish people (that is, create one new people for himself)?
4. Read Hebrews 10:19-22. What does it mean that we have a “new and living way opened for us through the curtain”? In which ways did the OT regulations for sacrifice act to foreshadow the sacrifice of Christ? (Read through Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 for background).
5. Stuart suggested that religion replaces the curtain in the lives of some Christians. [That is, we don’t fully appreciate the victory of the Cross, but revert to ways of attempting to come to God through effort or ritual]. How might we sometimes do this? See also Rom. 5:1; 8:1; 2 Cor. 5:17.
6. In what ways might you need to draw nearer to God in 2020?