

April 4, 2021

A most important belief

[Christianity has many beliefs, but none are more important than the resurrection. Here is an excerpt from a good friend's book about this key conviction—*Disciples of the Empty Tomb* (by Brandon Renfro). If you want a good, readable book on the Lord's resurrection, grab a copy. This is from chapter 1. —Chuck]

In the pantheon of Bible doctrines, it can be argued that the resurrection of Christ from the dead occupies the chief seat at the theological table. This may seem like a rather bold claim until it is realized that it also encompasses the divinity of Christ (Romans 1:3-4), the salvation of those who accept it (Romans 10:9; 1 Peter 3:21), and the second coming of the Lord to claim those who belong to him (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

Thus, when you read popular works about the resurrection, it is not uncommon to encounter statements like these:

"... the Resurrection is the central event in Christianity . . ." (Geisler and Turek, *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be An Atheist*, p. 301)

"In the war between truth and doubt, nothing outweighs the battle over a certain plot of Jerusalem-area real estate where death moved in on a Friday afternoon and came out the front door big as life on a Sunday morning" (Kostenberger, Bock, and Chatraw, *Truth Matters*, p. 160).

"... if Christ had not been raised from the dead, then nothing else matters: our resurrection, the church, or Christianity . . ." (McDowell, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, p. 236).

These comments are valuable, as they show the great esteem in which scholars rightly hold the doctrine of the resurrection. But the judgment of the apostle Paul, to continue our theme of comparative importance, surely trumps them all.

Here's the thing.

Paul agrees.

Notice how he begins his great treatise on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15.

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures . . .

Along with his atoning death, Paul described the resurrection of Christ as being "of first importance." In commenting on this passage, Albert Mohler aptly noted:

"All revealed truth is vital, invaluable, life-changing truth to which every disciple of Christ is fully accountable. But certain truths are of highest importance, and that is the language that Paul uses without qualification" ("Of First Importance: The Cross and Resurrection at the Center," March 29, 2013, albertmohler.com).

This is precisely what we have been saying. Namely, all truth is God's truth, and all of it is valuable. None of it is unimportant. But some truths occupy the top rung, and the resurrection is chief among them . . .

—Brandon Renfro

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

ELDERS

Carl Logan 979-9874
Jimmy Lyles 616-1109
Paul Williams, Jr. 408-7234
Harold Rhodes 876-9296

MINISTER

Chuck Webster

(205) 586-5610 (cell)
cwebster@hoovercoc.org

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Kyle Wadley

(205) 792-5922 (cell)
kwadley@hoovercoc.org

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTER

Darrell Powell

(205) 480-9773 (cell)
dpowell@hoovercoc.org

Worship Assignments Sunday

Elder to Contact in April for Needs:
Harold Rhodes

Call to Worship: Chuck Webster

Scripture Reading: Chad Blackmon

Singing: Kyle Wadley

Opening Prayer: Joel Abbott

Sermon: Chuck Webster

Communion: Sid Aultman

Announcements: Carl Logan

Closing Prayer: Mike Clelland

Audio/Cameras: Grant Dalton

Alternate: David Naylor

Video: Will Spurlin

Security: Shawn Troughton

Alternate: Walden Schlundt

Bible Reading for April 4-10

Sunday, April 4: Joshua 4-6; Psalm 53

Monday, April 5: Joshua 7-9; Psalm 54

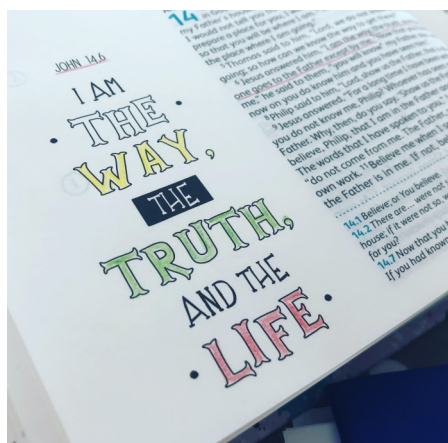
Tuesday, April 6: Joshua 10-12;
Psalm 55

Wednesday, April 7: Joshua 13-15;
Psalm 56

Thursday, April 8: *Reflection*

Friday, April 9: Joshua 16-18; Psalm 57

Saturday, April 10: Joshua 19-21;
Psalm 58



Today

Bible classes for adults meet in the following rooms: **Library, Team 1:** Jason McKeown, Torrey Clark, Ben Vick, Donnie Winningham; **Downstairs, Team 2:** Steve Cotney, Bill Rayburn, Eddie Sankey, Harold Rhodes; **Auditorium, Team 3:** Merv Prince, Wade Warren, Chuck Webster, Jeff Melton.

KidSing with Kyle Wadley is today at **4:30pm** on the Hoover YouTube channel.

Sunday evening devo at 5:00: There will be an online devotional guide on our website for everyone to enjoy, either at home or with other members.

Family News & Events

Please congratulate **Jake Williams** on his decision to be baptized, and let us help him shine in his walk with God.

Our Ladies' Bible Class meets on Tuesdays from 11:30am-12:30pm. If you are unable to attend, you can participate with the class on Zoom—just click the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81250009931?pwd=RDVGMVZkeHZVLzNKYWduNzNPNT255Zz09>. If you have any questions, please contact **Denia Petruzella** or **Leah Covington**. Babysitting is provided at no cost to you.

The Food Pantry will reopen on Sunday, April 25, from 3:00-4:30pm, and the food item that is needed this month is **Peanut Butter**.

"I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death."
—Philippians 3:10

Youth

Wednesday, April 7: Bring your own dinner to Bible class.

Saturday, April 10: Backwoods Christian Camp workday.

Wednesday, April 14: Bring your own dinner to Bible class.

Saturday, April 17: Youth Group 101.

Sunday, April 18: Area-Wide Devotional.

Wednesday, April 21: Bring your own dinner to Bible class.

"There will never be another person who owns the look, the personality, and the experience that you do. Those ingredients make up the recipe that defines who you are, and it's your gift from the Lord—own it."
—Candace Cameron Bure

Happy Anniversary

Dale & Joyce Baker	April 8
Ken & Carol Norris	April 10

Happy Birthday

Caleb Winningham	April 5
Carson Hamm	April 6
Vicky Till	April 7
Heidi Lyles	April 7
Hope Handley	April 8
Emily Warren	April 8
Landon Weimer	April 8
Sherri McQuillan	April 8
Teresa Rumph	April 8
Joy Martin	April 9
Steven Gaither	April 10

Jeremiah 29:11: "I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; They are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope."

The Good News: No matter what hardships the year may bring, God has a plan for you, and He will help you prosper through difficult situations.

Carelines

Shirley Rayburn, Bill Rayburn's sister-in-law, has breast cancer and will have surgery tomorrow.

Valtez Houston, April Collins' brother, is at UAB in the Critical Care Unit with COVID-19, the flu, and pneumonia. He is also on a ventilator.

Ricky Hamm, Steve Cotney's nephew, has been at UAB for two months and is not doing well. He has a lung infection and cannot breathe on his own.

Sharon Phillips, Wendy Wadley's sister, is battling cancer. If you would like to send a cheerful/thinking-of-you card, her address is 710 Swinging Bridge Road NW, Arab, AL 35016.

Dennis, Doyal Newson's brother, has been admitted to the hospital for health issues.

Jessica Brown, the sister of Kaiden Kennedy, has stage 4 cancer. Kaiden is a student at UAB who has been attending Hoover.

Aaron Bell, a former member of Hoover, had surgery to remove a tumor that was between his eyes and brain—it was found to be malignant.

Patsy McDaniel, Holly Church's mom, has one more week of treatments and has not experienced any difficulties with them so far. Cards can be mailed to her to the care of Holly Church, 1027 Grand Oaks Drive, Bessemer, AL 35022.

Nancy Harris is now at Morningside of Riverchase, and her room number is 102. If you want to visit Nancy, please make an appointment and let the phone ring several times if you call her (205-960-5669).

Remember our shut-ins: Joyce Baker, Lynne Nichols, and Nancy Williams.

Remember our church family: Mollye Melton, Charlene Thomas, Hosea Dallas, Dick Smith, Joe Thomas, Celeste Till, Sarah Washington, Gail Powell, and Sylvia Huffman.

Remember our families and friends: Eugene Horstead (Jeff Melton's cousin), June Glisan (Bill Laughmiller's sister), Cecil Hayward (Jeff Melton's brother-in-law), Carol Messick (Jeanne Anderson's sister), Mary Goodson (Alan Starns' mother), Barbara Milam (Donna Handley's mother), and Christa Smith (Sondra Moss' mother).

Two Roads

He came to a fork in the road. On one hand there was the road that led up a hill where three crosses stood. On two of the crosses, criminals were to be crucified, but the third cross was reserved for the very Son of God. He knew that it was his betrayal that placed Jesus into the hands of the angry mob. He gazed long and hard down that road, but his remorse and shame caused him to notice the road on his other hand. It was a lonely road, which no one seemed to have traveled that day. Judas chose the lonely road, and as he walked, weeping bitterly, it came to him. He saw the tree, and he knew what he would do. He draped the rope over a large limb, tied it around his neck, and hanged himself.

Meanwhile, up the other road, our suffering Savior bled. He was bound to the cross only by His love for us as the multitude continued deriding Him. Then, He opened His mouth and said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Oh, if only Judas had walked up that road instead! Perhaps he could have fought through the guilt and shame. Maybe, in addition to 1st and 2nd Peter, our New Testament would contain 1st and 2nd Judas as well.

The truth is, Judas was no more wrong than Peter, any one of the hateful men and women who consented to Jesus' death, or you, or me. We've all sinned, and we've all gone astray (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6). But God is willing to save all of us.

God has done His part. **Our responsibility** is to obey the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Thessalonians 1:8). Paul said that saving message is that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). Then in Romans 6:3-4, Paul explains how every person can **OBEY** that gospel message. "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." You too are guilty . . . which road will you choose?

—Darrell Powell

Attendance and Offering March 28, 2021

Attendance:

Bible Study: 124

Worship, 10:00am: 210

Wednesday, 7:00pm: 121

Contribution: \$11,334.30

Weekly Budget: \$13,800.00

Weekly Average: \$15,824.17

Contribution to Date: \$205,714.22

Hoover Supported Works

- *Childhaven, Cullman, AL*
- *Rainbow Omega, Eastaboga, AL*
- *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief*
- *George Funk, Gospel Chariot Missions, South Africa*
- *Cy Walker, Guyana*
- *Clothing Closet*
- *Food Pantry*
- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*

Mission Trips

- *Guyana*
- *Tanzania*
- *Philippines*
- *Peru*

Oversight

- *Christ Happy Childhaven, Philippines*
- *Tanzania Missions*

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2).

**That I may know him
(Philippians 3:3-11)**

The need for _____

Two things about the _____

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, . . .”



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Place
Postage