

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS...

- *Sets Me Free From* GUILT & SHAME

"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross." **Colossians 2:13-14 NLT**

"God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure." **Ephesians 1:5 NLT**

- *Sets Me Free To Live With* POWER TO CHANGE

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you." **Romans 8:11 NLT**

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated Him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the Heavenly realms." **Ephesians 1:19-20 NLT**

- *Sets Me Free To Face The* FUTURE WITH HOPE

"Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying.'" **John 11:25 NLT**

"God will raise us from the dead by His power, just as He raised our Lord from the dead." **1 Corinthians 6:14 NLT**

"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?...Thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ." **1 Corinthians 15:55,57 NLT**



NEXT WEEK: BE LOVING



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Easter

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THE RESURRECTION MAKE?

April 20 & 21, 2019
Ron Thompson

"If Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless." **1 Corinthians 15:14 NLT**

WE CAN HAVE ABSOLUTE CONFIDENCE IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

"I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then He was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw Him... And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died." **1 Corinthians 15:3-8,17,20 NLT**

- EMPTY TOMB

- EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS

- EMERGENCE OF THE CHURCH

"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but He died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but He was raised to life in the Spirit." **1 Peter 3:18 NLT**



This Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. Join one of our message-based Community Groups to do this study together. Visit the Groups table after service to find a group!

LESSON AIM: The aim of this lesson is to show the proof and importance of the resurrection of Jesus.

BELONG in God's family:

CHECK IN: (optional) Let's briefly check in with one another. How are you doing?

OPENING PRAYER

ICEBREAKER: What was one of the biggest surprises of your entire life? How did you react?

BECOME like Jesus:

1. Sunday's message focused on the importance of the resurrection. What part of the message had the biggest impact on you and why?
2. Read Mark 16:1-8. This passage tells us that the women heard from an angel that Jesus had risen, and they fled in fear and bewilderment. What do you think they were afraid of? What sort of reaction do you think you would have had to this news and why?
3. Read Luke 24:9-12. When the women shared the news of Jesus' resurrection with the disciples, there was more doubt and confusion... yet Peter ran to the tomb to see for himself. The fact that the Bible records doubt and confusion seems to give credence that it actually happened. The writers of the New Testament did not try to make themselves look good but recorded what actually happened. How does the reaction of the disciples help validate the details of the resurrection?

4. Read Romans 6:4-5 and 1 Corinthians 6:14. How does Jesus' resurrection guarantee our own resurrection someday?
5. Ephesians 1:18-21 describes the resurrection as a powerful hope for the Christian life. The resurrection also represents second chances and new beginnings. What is an area of your life where you would like a second chance or a new beginning?

BLESS others:

Romans 8:11 assures us that the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. The Holy Spirit unites us in Christ and empowers us to live a godly life. How can we learn to live in greater connection to and unity with the Holy Spirit?

BUILD God's Kingdom:

As Peter shared the good news of Jesus with the crowd at Pentecost he includes the important detail of the resurrection (see Acts 2:22-24). Romans 10:9-10 also lists belief in the resurrection as part of receiving salvation. Why is the resurrection such an important part of the salvation message, and how can we use it as we share Christ with others?

BELIEVE God and act in faith:

In 1 Corinthians 15:1-17 we see Paul emphasize the importance of belief in the resurrection. What reasons does Paul give as to why the resurrection is important? How does it strengthen and build our hope?

PRAYER: What is a challenge you are facing this week? How can we pray and support you?

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