

What the Resurrection Practically Changes - Spring 2026 D-Groups

For Wednesday, April 29 - "The Resurrection Provides the Foundation for Our Confident Hope"



The Big Picture - Our Theme for This Six-Week D-Group Session

This is our final session in our focus on Jesus' resurrection. Throughout these weeks, we've seen this theme: ***"this changes everything!"*** We've been reflecting on how this truth foundationally shifts our perspective and changes how we practically live. **We come this week to an appropriate conclusion to this topic as we consider how Jesus' resurrection provides the foundation for our confident hope in Christ.** From the days of the NT onward, a core part of the Good News has been this announcement that because Jesus has been raised from the dead, so too will we. More specifically, for those who belong to Him through faith, it's the promise that beyond this earthly life is *eternal* life in God's presence. This isn't just our wish for a preferred future, this hope is a guarantee of a promised future in Christ. When it comes to our confidence for what is beyond death, it is Jesus' resurrection that provides the solid and secure foundation!

Introductory Reflection

Jesus has transformed death for the believer, but death remains an enemy of humanity as it has been since "the fall" in Genesis 3 - a result of sin entering the world and the resulting curse. In fact, ever since, it has been the "common destiny" that awaits all people. Even as we often try to avoid the topic - let alone the reality, life has a way of forcing us to deal with death.

Reflect on your experiences with death - your earliest familiarity with it, important people in your life whose passing you still grieve, close encounters with death (yourself or someone you love), challenges you've had in processing the reality (i.e. fear/anxiety), etc. How has our HOPE for resurrection in Christ influenced these experiences?

How have you processed that reality personally - as in, acknowledging the reality that it's something each one of us faces? How has your perspective changed throughout your life?

What are typical answers (from a non-Christian perspective) re: what happens beyond death?

This Theme in God's Word

While death is still a great enemy of humanity, the overwhelming message of the NT announces that Jesus has brought about a *different* perspective. Death still reigns within the context of life on earth,

but in Christ, we now see it differently. There are all kinds of texts in the NT that remind us of this change (we'll focus in on 1 Corinthians 15 in this guide, but consider these as well: John 11:1-44 with a focus on Jesus' words in 11:25-26; see also Revelation 1:17-18 ... 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10 ... Philippians 1:20-22 ... 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 = we grieve as those who have confident hope re: what's happened to loved ones in Christ ... 1 Peter 1:3-9 ... Hebrews 2:14-15 ... Revelation 14:13 - these specifically address the reality of death, there are many other NT texts that speak about our future home). If we're going to have a right perspective re: death, it's important that we allow our minds and hearts to be nourished by God's Truth on the topic.

READ 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 - much about our faith hinges on Jesus' resurrection according to what Paul writes ... reflect on what all depends upon that event (vv. 12-19); notice also how it becomes the foundation for our own promised resurrection (vv. 20-23 especially).

READ 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 ... consider what Paul writes re: the present bodies and what our resurrected bodies will be like.

READ 1 Corinthians 15:50-57 ... reflect on the language of promised VICTORY - not a way we typically think about a powerful enemy such as death.

Notice in 15:58 the way this truth provides ongoing motivation in our lives of faith!!

Overall, here are some important broader themes as we consider the NT perspective re: death ...

- While believers still face death as an end to earthly journeys, it is now a transition from earthly life to eternal life in God's presence.
- Because of His own death and resurrection, Jesus alone can uniquely offer a real answer to death. In fact, we have full confidence and certain assurance (Biblical hope is much more reliable than how we often use the word) because what happened to Him will happen to us!
- Even more, Jesus' resurrection is both a PROOF (His guarantees ours) and PREVIEW (like Him, we will be raised with glorified bodies) of ours. This is what the imagery of "firstfruits" points toward: the initial harvest pointing toward a future one.
- These resurrected bodies will be perfectly designed for our eternal home - wonderfully impressive, absent of any of the realities that our mortal earthly bodies are subject to (even if there is some "continuity" as with a seed and the plant that emerges).
- We can even rejoice in the face of death because of our confident victory over it in Christ, even receiving what some have called "dying grace" - a calming peace when being confronted by it.
- This confident hope influences the way we approach life and death even here-and-now (see 1 Cor. 15:58). It motivates us more broadly in our lives of faith, giving us sustaining purpose. It comforts/encourages us in our grief. It reassures us amidst trials and suffering in this world. It can even bring peace to our hearts amidst our fear and anxiety re: death.

For Broader Reflection

Consider the words of 1 Corinthians 15 (and any other texts you read from above) and the themes highlighted above. How do those help calibrate your perspective on death?