

WORDS FROM THE CROSS

WEEK 5

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:1-10 [NIV]

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.” ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Revelation 1:17-18 [NLT]

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 [NLT]

³ 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. ⁴ He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter[a] and then by the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers[b] at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

1 Corinthians 15:14-19 [NLT]

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. ¹⁵ And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can’t be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. ¹⁶ And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

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Ephesians 2:1-5 [NLT]

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world.[a] He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God’s anger, just like everyone else. ⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)

Romans 6:23 [NIV]

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in[a] Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 [NLT]

⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 10:9 [NIV]

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

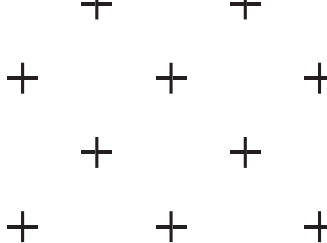
John 11:26 [NLT]

²⁶ “Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?”

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FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

1. What was your biggest takeaway from this weekend's message?
2. Have you ever watched a scary movie with friends? If so, do you tend to be the person covering their eyes, or the friend laughing at the person covering their eyes?
3. We've heard lots regarding the harsh treatment of Jesus in the days leading up to the cross. What details jump out at you? Which seem most difficult to imagine?
4. No execution has been as precisely recorded as that of Jesus. Why do you think the Romans went to such horrible extremes for Him, and why do you think such a detailed record exists to this day?
5. Senior Pastor Steve Poe said, "I hear people say, 'You know, even if the resurrection didn't take place, I would still follow Jesus.' Well, you see - I wouldn't." Read 1 Corinthians 15:14-19 together, then discuss why he responded this way.
6. The fact that Jesus resurrected is what sets Christianity apart from every other religion. Why do you think so many people have such a hard time with the concept of Christ's physical resurrection?
7. Read Ephesians 2:1-5. In light of what Jesus has done for those who follow Him, how can we help dead people come to life in Christ without coming across as judgmental, arrogant or better than everyone else?
8. Max Lucado writes, "When it comes to Christ you've got to choose. Call Him crazy or crown Him as King. Dismiss Him as fraud or declare Him to be God ... but don't play games with Him. Don't call Him a great man. Don't clump Him with Moses, Elijah, Buddha, Joseph Smith, Mohammed or Confucius. He didn't leave that option. He is either God or godless, Heaven sent or hell-born. All hope or all hype. But nothing in-between." What jumps out at you when reading this quote?
9. We absolutely loved it when Senior Pastor Steve Poe said, "The God of the universe loves you. He doesn't just tolerate you. He doesn't just like you. No, God is head over heels in love with you." Are you still as inspired by this thought as you were when you first heard and believed this truth?

