

RESURRECTION

BELIEVING IN LIFE AFTER DEATH. RETHINKING LIFE BEFORE DEATH.

RESURRECTION

Believing in life after death. Rethinking life before death.

What is the ultimate Christian hope?

“To go to heaven when we die.”

After all, isn't that what resurrection is all about?

Surprisingly, no.

The Christian hope is actually much bigger and wider than being evacuated from this world. Christians are not just believing the right doctrines and checking off the right theological boxes until their souls are airlifted from this doomed world. Instead, Christians are those who believe that God has not abandoned the world He created, but is on a mission to renew all things through the sin-conquering, death-defeating, resurrected Jesus Christ.

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus means that death and evil have received a fatal blow. They will no longer have dominion over our world, our physical bodies, or our lives. Jesus is Lord. Here. Now.

And His followers play a vital part in God's project to bring about a new “resurrected” world. That means there is much work to do. Here. Now.

Over the next thirteen weeks, we will take a long sustained look at resurrection so that we can better understand what it means and why it matters. 2014 will be the year where Seven Mile Road Church celebrates Easter not once, but thirteen times!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything. It means we can die well because there is new life after death. But it also means we must live well because there is new life before death. Our hope is that this series will help us see both.

DATE	SERMON	PREVIEW	READ THIS
March 23	How do you know Jesus rose from the dead?	People in the first century were just as skeptical as we may be about a man coming back from the dead. Yet the evidence of Jesus' resurrection convinced them. It can convince us too!	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
March 30	What does resurrection mean?	"After you die, your soul goes to be with God forever in heaven." That's <i>not</i> what resurrection means. The Christian hope is not your soul living forever on a cloud playing the harp, but a real body eternally inhabiting the new heavens and the new earth!	Romans 8:18-23; Revelation 21
April 6	Because He rose, Jesus is the Messiah	The Jews had concrete hopes about the Messiah and what he would do. Jesus fulfilled none of them. And yet thousands declared Him to be the Messiah. Why? One word: resurrection!	Acts 17:2-3; Acts 26:22-23
April 13	Because He rose, Jesus' Kingdom has come & is coming	"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This is not just a Christian ideal, but the reality that Jesus came to bring about. His resurrection verifies that God's Kingdom has broken into the earth!	Luke 17:20-21; Matthew 28:18
April 20	Because He rose, death will die	Death is not our friend. It is not a sweet guide into the afterlife. It is our foe. Death is the result of a broken world. Resurrection means that Jesus has defeated this foe and death itself will die!	1 Corinthians 15:24-26, 55
April 27	Because He rose, Jesus will end injustice	All authority now belongs to Jesus. He is Lord and there is no place for injustice in His Kingdom. Injustice will be brought to an end. Finally the world has a righteous judge and King!	Acts 17:30-31
May 4	Because He rose, our labor is not in vain	God is making all things new, including a new heaven and new earth. But rather than watching as spectators, God calls us to partner with Him in this project. Because of the resurrection, our labor for Him will endure forever in the world to come!	1 Corinthians 15:58
May 11	Because He rose, we can take risks	Jesus' enemies scourged, crucified, and killed Him. Yet He came back, in the body. The resurrection means that we have life beyond the grave. This frees us to take risks for the Lord because God will raise us up too!	1 Corinthians 15:30-31
May 18	Because He rose, we can be born again	The resurrection serves as the means and the portrait of what it means to have new life in Christ. Even as Christ rose to new life, so through repentance and faith, we can be born again to a new life!	1 Peter 1:3
May 25	Because He rose, we can be justified	The Cross and empty tomb are like two sides of the same coin. We can't eliminate either and need both. Through Jesus' death <i>and</i> His resurrection, we are counted righteous and justified!	Romans 4:24-25
June 1	Because He rose, we can be sanctified	What kind of power is needed to bring life to the three-days-dead corpse of Jesus? The Scriptures declare that same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in us so that we might live resurrection lives!	Romans 6:4; 8:11
June 8	Because He rose, we will rise	The Christian hope is not a disembodied, immaterial, spiritual eternity. Instead, our physical bodies will be gloriously raised to inherit a renewed creation. The life after death is more real not less!	1 Corinthians 15:35-49
June 15	Because He rose, we will live with him	Our hope is not just in resurrection as a doctrine, but in Jesus who said that He is the Resurrection. Believers are promised eternal life with Him – a life where there is no death, or mourning, or crying, or pain. All things will finally be new!	Revelation 21-22