



Key References:

Colossians 2:13–15 (NIV)

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Romans 4:25 (NIV)

²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

1 Corinthians 15:14–19 (NIV)

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:55–58 (NIV)

⁵⁵ “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

1 – Reflections on Easter

In the last two weeks as you’ve heard reflections on Jesus’ death and resurrection what has stood to you the most? What are you most thankful for Jesus for?

Read Colossians 2:13-15 and reflect on it as a group.

In Philippians 2:5-8 we see how human Jesus was. **What comes to mind when you think of the cross and humanness of Jesus? What does Paul mean when he says “your attitude should be the same” in v5?**

2 - Assurance of the resurrection

How would Christianity be different if there was no truth in the resurrection? Read 1 Cor 15:14-19. Can you be a Christian and not believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

On Sunday Mike reflected: *“Paul wrote 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament. Paul endured hardship; endured five floggings; three beatings; three shipwrecks; stonings; poverty and much ridicule. And, finally he was beheaded by Nero in AD68 32 years after his conversion because he would not deny his faith.”* **What about Paul’s life, and the rest of the disciples and early church, speaks most to you about the genuineness of Jesus resurrection? How can this build our own faith 2000 years later?**

3 – Strength in the coming resurrection of the dead

Read 1 Cor 15:50-58. **How does the coming resurrection give you the strength to “stand firm, letting nothing move you, while giving yourself fully to the work of the Lord (v58)”?**

Is it possible to believe in the resurrection and still struggle with your faith? What can you do to strengthen your faith when it feels flat?

4 – It’s all about Jesus

It’s easy to become sidetracked in our faith, even when we know it’s all about Jesus. **What about Easter resets our eyes back to the most important thing about our faith? What can we do to keep our eyes on Jesus throughout the rest of the year?**

The early church and disciples lead powerful, obedient, courageous and prolific lives in line with God’s mission. **Can we live with the same passion they did? How can we cultivate it?**