

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY WORKSHOP

Practical Wisdom for your Life

April 4th, 2021, 11:30 AM via Zoom

Easter Sunday The Best News Ever

Death is only the end if you assume the story is about you.

Welcome to Night Vale, a podcast

Is death the last step? No, it is the final awakening.

Sir Walter Scott, Poet

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.

Clarence W. Hall

It is not the beauty of the cross, but of the one crucified, that is rescued at Easter; God's judgment vindicates Christ, his obedience unto death, but not the crucifixion.

David Bentley Hart, The Beauty of the Infinite

To be a Christian is to live every day of our lives in solidarity with those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, but to live in the unshakable hope of those who expect the dawn.

Fleming Rutledge in

Advent, The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ

Death is the ultimate weapon of the tyrant;
resurrection does not make a covenant with death, it overthrows it.

N.T. Wright, Biblical Scholar, Bishop of Durham, England

The resurrection is not only the Good News, it is the best news imaginable.

Ray C. Stedman in God's Loving Word

Centering questions

What do you most appreciate about Easter and why?

I Corinthians 15:3-6, 20-22, 54-58

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died....²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ....⁵³ For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

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, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Discussion questions and background

1. Why does Paul bring up all these witnesses? What is Paul trying to do?
2. What do you think Paul means by first fruits?
3. Does anyone know what happened on Holy Saturday, what it means in the Creed when we say Jesus descended to the dead? How does that relate to first fruits?
4. What do you think Paul means by all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ? Who is the “all?”
5. What does Paul mean by these words about our bodies, about immortality? What does that tell you about the sacredness of your body, of the world?
6. How does knowing these things help you be steadfast, to know your labor is not in vain?

Closing thoughts

Christendom has had a series of revolutions, and in each one of them Christianity has died.

Christianity has died many times and risen again;
for it had a God who knew the way out of the grave.

G.K Chesterton

Practice resurrection.

Wendell Berry, Poet