

Easter Weekend

This Changes Everything

Warm-Up Questions:

- Some events in our lives change everything--weddings, births, graduations, deaths. What are some of the "life-changing" events in your life?
- If somebody were to ask you why the resurrection matters, what would you say? Why must we believe that Jesus rose bodily?

READ: Luke 23:53-24:12

I. The Destruction of Death (Luke 24:5-6; Rev. 1:17-18)

- Do you fear death? Why or why not?
- What difference does (or might) it make in your day to day life to know that death has been defeated?

II. The Restoration of Hope (Luke 24:2-3, 12)

- Have you lost your sense of wonder at the resurrection? Why do you think that is? What might be some ways to cultivate anew this sense of wonder?
- The resurrection reminds us that if a dead man can rise again, then God can work restoration and new life in even the darkest of situations. Where, in your own life, have you given up on God's ability to restore and make new?
- Where in your job and community might God be calling you to go and "make new creation happen?" (see NT Wright quote)

III. The Confirmation of Grace (Luke 24:6-7, 10-12)

- Where in Luke's Easter account do we see grace upending the ways of the world?
- How are we "proof of the resurrection"?

"When Jesus rose again God's whole new creation emerged from the tomb, introducing a world full of possibility. Indeed, precisely because part of that new possibility is for human beings themselves to be revived and renewed, the resurrection of Jesus doesn't leave us as passive, helpless spectators. We find ourselves lifted up, set on our feet, given new breath in our lungs, and commissioned to go and make new creation happen in the world."

NT Wright

GOING DEEPER

Read and discuss the theological implications of the resurrection handout

Theological Implications of the Resurrection

(exerted from class handouts from Covenant Theology I at Covenant Theological Seminary, Fall 2019)

- Christ's resurrection is proof of his status as Son of God (Rom 1:4; John 10:18), and it assures his lordship over all (Rom. 14:9).
- Jesus' resurrection indicates the power of God (Eph 1:20), a power which even avails to believers (cf. 2 Cor 1:9).
- Jesus' resurrection provides the basis for his exaltation to the right hand of God as the firstborn from the dead and head over all things (Eph 1:20-23; Col 1:18), and thus it also provides the basis for the ministries Jesus performs in the Father's presence (e.g., Rom 8:34).
- Belief in Jesus' resurrection is necessary to salvation (Rom 10:9), and hence it is an inherent part of the Gospel (1 Cor 15:3-8; 2 Tim 2:8).
- Jesus' resurrection is the basis for the believer being born again (1 Pet 1:3-4), which provides the context for Christian hope.
- Jesus' resurrection provides salvation (1 Pet 1:3; 3:21; Eph 2:5-6; Col 2:12-13) and even justification (Rom 4:24-25).
- Even in this life, believers are resurrected with Christ (Col 2:12), and thus we are released from slavery to sin in order to bear fruit (Rom 6:4-11; 7:4; cf. Col. 3:1ff.). We also (in some mysterious way) are already seated with Christ in the heavenlies (Eph 2:6).
- The resurrected Jesus will return bodily to the earth in order to judge the living and the dead (Acts 1:11; 17:31; Rev. 1:18).
- Jesus' resurrection is the basis for the resurrection of believers, and thus it provides our hope of resurrection life (John 11:25-26; Acts 4:2; Rom 8:11; 1 Cor 6:14; 15:20-23; 2 Cor 4:14; 1 Thess 4:14).
- Jesus' resurrection illustrates what the "spiritual bodies" will be like in the resurrection of believers (1 Cor 15:42-49).
- The resurrection of Jesus illustrates how our bodies are an inherent part of God's creational design for us (Gen 1:26-28; Luke 24:39; John 20:24-28). What we do in our bodies matters!