

Luke 24:1-8 (NKJV) 1 Now on the first [day] of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain [other women] with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. 2 But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. 3 Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. 5 Then, as they were afraid and bowed [their] faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 **“He is not here, but is risen!** Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, 7 “saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ ” 8 And they remembered His words.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV) 3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:17 *And if Christ has not been raised then our faith is worthless and we are still in our sins.*

Jesus death and resurrection are the most important events in the history of the universe and the two events are so directly connected that you cannot have one without the other. They must be held in tension.

The gospel holds together two realities that don't naturally go together in the crucifixion and resurrection: humility and power. The cross is not just something to believe in, but something to be formed by. Jesus in His resurrected body directs us to His sacrifice eternally by keeping the wounds in His hands.

The cross produces in us humility, love, freedom and Christ-likeness. Our union or oneness with Jesus happens as we die to self and receive this perfect love and respond to a life of walking out our salvation.

The resurrection is God's declaration of power-death has been swallowed up by life, sin is defeated, death is broken and eternal life is promised This is life altering power that lives in me and transforms me.

In 1 Corinthians 2 Paul makes an incredible statement. You could say he gives us the emphasis of his ministry and is intended to be the primary ministry of the church.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5-*And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. ² For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. ³ I was with you in weakness, in*

fear, and in much trembling. ⁴ And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul states, “I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified”! Yet Paul connects the crucified life to the power of God!

- **It is meant to make us examine:** the finished work of Jesus Christ
- Our understanding of the magnitude and mystery of His sacrifice
- The inheritance of the saints within the death of Jesus Christ which is meant to be appropriated to every aspect of our lives.
- It is only the crucified life that operates in the power of God.

As we speak of the cross we are referring to Jesus sacrificial death on the cross and everything that was accomplished through His sacrifice, His passion. There is no Gospel without the cross of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of Christ. *If we want to live a life marked by God’s power and anointing, we will be a people who do not enter into humanistic and philosophical debate, we will preach Christ crucified.*

This means we must continue in maturity to find out everything involved in the finished work of Jesus Christ for it is where all identity, authority, power and fellowship with God flow. **Many believe in the death and even resurrection of Jesus Christ including Satan and every demon but just believing an event happened doesn’t save you.** Jesus finished work must be received and appropriated into our lives. As disciples we apply this finished work by grace through faith to our lives.

After salvation, the lens changes because we now see the cross through the lens of the resurrection. Now, the cross is no longer just about death and judgment—it is the gateway to new life. We see Christ’s suffering as victory over sin and death, not just a tragic event. The resurrection transforms our understanding: the cross becomes a symbol of hope, forgiveness, and empowerment.

- the cross itself doesn’t change, but our spiritual eyes do—we see life instead of death. After salvation, the cross becomes the doorway into immortality, because Christ’s resurrection secures ours.

The perspective shift is rooted in hope and participation in Christ’s resurrection, not just sympathy for His suffering.

Church Father Gregory often spoke of the cross as both a mystery and a victory. “*For those outside of Christ, it is a puzzle or even a scandal. For those in Christ, it is a ladder into divine life, because the resurrection gives meaning to what would otherwise be suffering.*”

The cross represents one perfect, all sufficient sacrifice.

Hebrews 10:11-14- ¹¹ And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

- **The priests of the old covenant always stood, they never sat down because their task was never fully complete.** *He would have to make the sacrifice over and over again because the sacrifice could never take away the sin.*
- **In contrast to the old covenant priest, Jesus after He had made one sacrifice for sins, sat down at the right hand of God.**
- **This passage explains in the strongest possible way the completeness of what Jesus did.** **By one sacrifice, He has perfected.** **The Greek verb is in the perfect tense which means to do something perfectly.** **It is done, it is finished, never having to be done again.** **Jesus Christ complete sacrifice covers all time and eternity.**
- Jesus sat down because He was never going to have to offer another sacrifice. By one sacrifice, He has made total and perfect provision for every need of every human being.

The nature of Jesus sacrifice was prophetically described in Isaiah 53, 700 years before it took place.

Isaiah 53:6-All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah explains every individual ever born from every tribe and nation have gone astray and went our own way (Sin nature). We have all turned our backs on God and His requirements. The Bible calls this ***iniquity*** which is a very strong word. *The best modern translation for iniquity would be rebellion.* Iniquity also refers to the evil consequences of, and the punishment for rebellion.

- **Jesus sacrifice is perfect because God put upon Jesus the rebellion of us all, along with all of the evil consequences and judgments that were due us because of that rebellion.**
- **All the evil due to us came upon Jesus Christ, so that all the good due to the sinless obedience of the Son of God might be available to us.** **He bore our sin in order that we could bear His righteousness.** **He took our wrath so that we could receive His mercy and grace.**

2 Corinthians 5:21- For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The Scripture has one consistent message. *There is only one remedy for sin, a sacrifice!* Every sacrifice in the Old Testament looked forward prophetically to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Jesus sacrifice is all sufficient-You cannot add or take away.

Romans 8:31-32-³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? ³² He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

- All things are provided for us through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus!
- The Father gave us His only Son, He will not withhold anything from us but freely give us all things.
- **The one sacrifice of Jesus releases the total abundance of God's mercy and provision. We need no other basis because there is no other basis for salvation.**
- Any premise other than Jesus sacrifice for us is a false basis. Your good works. Church attendance, morality all fall short of the glory of God!
- **As soon as the cross becomes displaced, you will find you are no longer enjoying the abundance of God's grace.** We should daily meditate and release praise and worship for the cross of Jesus Christ!

1. **Our responsibility** is this: we must appropriate the finished work of Jesus. Our appropriation of His finished work in our life is progressive. Our legal standing with God through receiving Jesus Finished work personally is complete when we are born again. We became a child of God, an heir of God and co-heir of Christ. The entire inheritance is legally ours through Jesus Sacrifice.
2. **Experientially we do not possess it all.** If we are honest we will admit that everything Jesus paid for has not been fully appropriated to our lives by faith. **We are in the process of being sanctified and receiving by faith what God has paid for in grace.**

Again, when we believed and made the good confession, repented of our sins we were given access to the fullness of our inheritance. However it must be appropriated, we must make it our own! **Authority means nothing unless we use it.**

We were meant to live victorious as Jesus followers. **The death of Christ mirrors what happens to every follower of Jesus Christ. Through faith we are crucified with Christ and raised up from that death through baptism into His transformed life.**

There is only one way to enter into the new life that Jesus has for you! You must die to your old life. God has one solution for your old self, "Execution". God Does not try to improve you, He does not try to reform you, He does not try to make you religious.

- There is no other solution for the sinner. **The good news of the gospel is that the execution has already taken place in Christ.**
- **This is the key to understanding the gospel message.** Death to self, precedes life in Christ

Romans 7:24 (NKJV) O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Romans 6 shows us how Jesus sets us free. *Romans 6:6 (NKJV) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with [Him,] that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.*

Our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with that we should no longer be slaves to sin. **The only way of escape from the slavery of sin is to place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ and know and believe that our old self was crucified with Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, that rebel, the old self was executed in him.**

This is the glorious message of the Gospel. Jesus Christ took your place. He paid our death so we can enter into His life,

Galatians 2:20-I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

We died with Christ so we can live with Christ now and for eternity.

If we will follow Him to the cross, then we will also follow Jesus into resurrection.

Communion

The cross produces-dependence, humility, mercy, forgiveness

the cross is not just something to believe in, but something to be formed by. Every time we receive holy communion with return to the foot of the cross to express our eternal gratitude and to be formed by His beauty. We draw from Jesus strength to overcome everything in life and even death.

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

Home groups

1. Share what Jesus has done in you this Holy Week? How has Jesus passion, the cross and the resurrection awakens your heart to love Him more? Be specific and share from your heart.
2. Discuss-**The gospel holds together two realities that don't naturally go together in the crucifixion and resurrection: humility and power.** The cross is not just something to believe in, but something to be formed by.
3. Discuss-Church Father Gregory of Nyssa often spoke of the cross as both a mystery and a victory. *“For those outside of Christ, it is a puzzle or even a scandal. For those in Christ, it is a ladder into divine life, because the resurrection gives meaning to what would otherwise be suffering.”*
4. As soon as the cross becomes displaced, you will find you are no longer enjoying the abundance of God's grace.
5. Discuss your personal commitment to grow in the beautiful mystery of the cross and resurrection and fall more in love with Jesus.