

What Are You Standing On?

Bible Text(s) Used:

1 Corinthians 15:1–17ⁱ; Romans 4:25ⁱⁱ; Romans 10:9ⁱⁱⁱ; 2 Corinthians 5:21^{iv}

The Foundation Matters: The Gospel Is Our Bedrock

Pastor Mike begins by reminding us that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a historical event—it is the very foundation of the Christian faith. Just like a building must be anchored to solid ground, our lives must be anchored to the truth of the Gospel: that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. If the foundation is weak, everything else will eventually crumble.

Reflection Question: What am I truly standing on in my life—feelings, circumstances, or the Gospel?

Without the Cross, There Is No Forgiveness

Jesus did not die merely as an example or a martyr—He died as our substitute. This means He took our place, bearing the punishment that we deserved. Pastor Mike illustrates this with the image of a judge stepping down to take the sentence of the guilty. This is the heart of the Gospel: Christ died “for our sins.” Because of this, forgiveness is not based on our efforts, but on His sacrifice.

Reflection Question: Do I fully trust that Jesus has paid for my sins, or do I still carry guilt that He already bore?

Without the Resurrection, There Is No Salvation

The resurrection is God’s confirmation that the cross worked. It is like a receipt stamped “paid in full.” If Jesus had remained in the grave, our faith would be empty. But because He rose, we have assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are justified—declared right before God.

Reflection Question: How does the resurrection give me confidence in my salvation today?

The Resurrection Stands in History

Pastor Mike highlights that the resurrection was not a hidden event. Jesus appeared to hundreds of witnesses, many of whom were still alive when Paul wrote his letter. This means the resurrection is not based on myth or legend—it is rooted in real, historical testimony. Christianity stands on a public event that changed the world.

Reflection Question: How does knowing the resurrection is historically grounded strengthen my faith?

The Resurrection Changes Lives

When someone truly believes in the resurrection—not just intellectually, but in the heart—it transforms them. Pastor Mike uses the example of Paul, who went from persecuting Christians to becoming one of the greatest apostles. The disciples themselves went from fearful and hiding to bold and willing to die for their faith.

This transformation is still happening today. The Gospel does not just inform us—it changes us. It reshapes our priorities, our relationship with sin, and our entire direction in life.

Reflection Question: In what ways has the resurrection begun to transform my life?

What Are You Standing On?

The message concludes with a powerful question: What gives you confidence before God? Is it your morality, your church attendance, or your efforts? Or is it the finished work of Jesus Christ—His death, burial, and resurrection?

The Gospel invites us not just to admire Jesus, but to follow Him. True belief goes beyond intellectual agreement—it is a heart-level trust that results in a changed life. As Romans 10:9 reminds us, if we confess Jesus as Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved.

Reflection Question: Am I standing fully on the Gospel, or am I trusting in something else?

Closing Thought:

The resurrection is not just something we celebrate once a year—it is the foundation we stand on every day. Because Jesus is alive, our sins are forgiven, our future is secure, and our lives can be transformed. Stand firmly on the Gospel, and it will hold you—not only in this life, but for eternity.

i

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, 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 at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Resurrection of the Dead

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been

raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.

ii

... who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

iii

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

iv

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.