

HILL TO DIE ON

WHERE EVERYTHING CHANGED

HILL TO DIE ON, PART 3: THE RESURRECTION: IT'S ESSENTIAL

Do unto others. Love is patient, love is kind. Turn the other cheek. It's easy to appreciate Jesus' teachings until the Bible writers tell us that he rose from the dead. For some, the idea of a person rising from the dead is so hard to believe that they cherry-pick the teachings and refute the resurrection. In this message, Pastor Chris recounts the truth about Jesus' life and death that the apostle Paul says is a *Hill to Die On*.

BIG IDEA: If there is no resurrection, we should abandon all things Christian.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about your favorite childhood memory of Easter.
2. What Easter traditions—religious or secular—do you currently observe? What meaning do they hold for you?
3. What is one important truth your grandparents passed on to you? What is one important truth you could pass on to your children?
4. [With your Bible or the BibleApp, read 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.](#)

Let me now remind you, dear brothers and sisters, of the Good News I preached to you before. You welcomed it then, and you still stand firm in it. It is this Good News that saves you if you continue to believe the message I told you—unless, of course, you believed something that was never true in the first place. I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said.

[1 Corinthians 15:1-4 \(NLT\)](#)

5. Based upon these scriptures, what is the core of Paul's faith? What are the main points of the Gospel Paul preached to the Corinthians?
6. These points are 'What I received' and 'of first importance.' How does that emphasis relate to verses 1-2?
7. [With your Bible or the BibleApp, read 1 Corinthians 15:5-8.](#)

He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him.

[1 Corinthians 15:5-8 \(NLT\)](#)

8. Why do you think Paul mentions all the people who saw the risen Jesus?
9. Of the facts found in verses 3-8, which is most important to you and why?
10. Is it easier for you to believe in Jesus' teachings than in his resurrection? Why or why not?
11. [With your Bible or the BibleApp, read 1 Corinthians 15:16-17.](#)

For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

[1 Corinthians 15:16-17 \(NLT\)](#)

12. Discuss the connection between Jesus' resurrection and our faith. Do you agree with Paul's assertion?
13. [With your Bible or the BibleApp, read Matthew 7:13-14.](#)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

[Matthew 7:13-14 \(NLT\)](#)

14. How does Jesus’ statement in Matthew 7:13-14 relate to Paul’s teaching on the resurrection in [1 Corinthians 15:14-20](#)?

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. ¹⁵ And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can’t be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. ¹⁶ And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. ²⁰ But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

[1 Corinthians 15:14-20 \(NLT\)](#)

MOVING FORWARD

If there was no resurrection, we’re being good for nothing. We should abandon all things Christian. But if Jesus did rise, he’s the only man in history who predicted his own death and resurrection and then pulled it off. He’s worth following.

If you’re on the line, make a decision to cross the line into faith.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. 1 Corinthians 15:3-5