

# **SURPRISED BY HOPE**

WEEK 6

# SUMMARY OF CHAPTER 14: RESHAPING THE CHURCH FOR MISSION: BIBLICAL ROOTS

**The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom.** It is the **decisive event** demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven. P.234

Resurrection doesn't mean *escaping from* the world; it means *mission to* the world.

Matthew gives us a clear message of what **resurrection means: Jesus is now enthroned** as the Lord of heaven and earth. His **kingdom has been established**. And his kingdom is to be **put into practice** by his followers summoning all nations to obedient alliance to him. P.235

**The Emmanuel, the God-with-us, is now Jesus-with-us until the final end of the old age**, the time when the new age, which has been inaugurated in the resurrection, has completed its transforming work in the world. P.235

**The resurrection is the point at which all the old promises come true at last:** the promises of David's unshakeable kingdom; the promises of Israel's return from the greatest exile of them all; and the promise that all the nations will now be blessed through the seed of Abraham. P.236

This is what **the resurrection** does: it **opens the new world, in which, under the saving and judging lordship of Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, everything else has to be seen in a new light.** P.244

**Easter functions as the beginning of the new creation.** P.238

Easter is the beginning of God's new world, the long-awaited new age, the resurrection of the dead. P.244

**The Messiah has been raised** as the start of the general resurrection; those who belong to him will be raised at his final appearing. Then, only then, will he **complete the implementation of the victory** he won at Calvary and Easter. That is the time when all enemies, including death itself, will be put under his feet, in the fulfillment of the scriptural promise. P.247

The **main meaning of the resurrection of Jesus for Paul** is that God's new world has been brought into being through this event, the long-promised new world in which the covenant will be renewed, sins will be forgiven, and death itself will be done away with. P.248

**Easter commissions Jesus' followers for a task; Pentecost gives them the necessary equipment to accomplish it.** P.239

The apostles are not offering people a new religious experience, though that will come as well. They are not telling them that they can now go to heaven when they die, though they will, if they believe, there to wait until the resurrection itself. . . **They are to go and tell the world that Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, is the world's true Lord and to summon them to believing obedience.** And that's exactly what they do. P.243

We are **called to live within the world where these things are possible and to be agents of such things** insofar as they lie in our calling and sphere. For Paul, the resurrection is not just about a large-scale public work. It is about the **personal and intimate life of resurrection** to which each of us is called. It is, in other words, about **baptism and holiness.** P.248

**The intermediate stage between the resurrection of Jesus and the renewal of the whole world is the renewal of human beings – you and me- in our own lives of obedience here and now.** P.249

We are committed, in baptism, **to being resurrection people.** P.249

Therefore, if you, through baptism and faith, are a **resurrection person living in the new world** begun at Easter, energized by the power that raised Jesus from the dead, then you **have a responsibility to share in the present risen life of Jesus.** P.250

Part of getting used to living in the post-Easter world – part of getting used to **letting Easter change your life, your attitudes, your thinking, your behavior** – is getting used to the cosmology that is now unveiled.p.251-252

### **IN OTHER WORDS, WAKE UP!**

Lying, stealing, sexual immorality, bad temper, and so on are forms of death, for both the person who commits them and for all those whose lives are touched by their actions. It's time to wake up! P.252

**Come alive to the real world,** the world where Jesus is Lord, the world into which your baptism brings you. P.252

The message of Easter is that **God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ** and that you're now invited to belong to it. P.252

**The power of Easter to transform and heal the present world** must be put into effect both at the macrolevel, in applying the gospel to the major problems of the world.... and to the intimate details of our daily lives. P.253

Christian **holiness** consists not of trying as hard as we can to be good but of **learning to live in the new world created by Easter.** P.253

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 14**

- 1. What does this chapter say the resurrection accomplishes?*
- 2. What does Easter function as? What does Pentecost function as?*
- 3. How are we called to live?*
- 4. What does it mean to be resurrection people in our broken world?*
- 5. How do apply the gospel to both the major problems of the world and to the intimate details of our daily lives?*
- 6. Have you been baptized? If now, is this something you would consider?*
- 7. How has reading this book impacted your thinking and your mission as an agent of transformation?*