

## II. *The resurrection is the strongest message of hope possible.*

It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of all these things.

Luke 24:47,48

1. We have a future.

*"When you die, that's it. There's no future beyond this life."*

One of the great Greek philosophers, Epicurus

2. This future is certain

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

Romans 8:1

3. God's grace and mercy are at the heart of Son's life and death. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:16

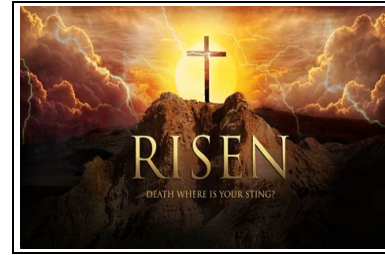
### **How do you accept God's grace?**

There's only one way you can accept God's grace.

Admit you need it.

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Dan Wilvers

Sierra Community Church



How Jesus' Resurrection  
Changed Everything.

Luke 24:36-49

### **Why did Jesus come to us in the first place?**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. <sup>10</sup>This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

1 John 4:9,10

"Jesus said, 'I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.'" John 12:47

### **Why did Jesus have to die?**

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus God-given destiny was to be the sacrifice to take away sins, ... because of his death on the cross. We come to him for mercy, for God has made a provision for us to be forgiven by faith in the sacred blood of Jesus.

Romans 3:25

But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have a multitude of children, many heirs.

Isaiah 53:10

### Consider what Jesus said.

"No one can kill Me without My consent. I lay down My life voluntarily for I have the right and the power to lay it down when I want to and also the right and the power to take it again. For the Father has given Me this right." John 10:18.

"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. John 12:27

**What was the reason?** But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

If Jesus had stayed in that tomb people would have remembered him as a miracle worker and his memory would have faded. But he didn't stay in that tomb and as a result everyone since has had followers who believe that He is exactly who He said He is.

### The resurrection is the focal point of the Bible.

After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

Christianity's earliest enemy Saul of Tarsus converts. He becomes the Apostle Paul who writes this in his very first Epistle:

Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup> He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup> He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

**Luke, chapter 24**, is one of these accounts of the resurrection in the New Testament, and Luke 24 covers the entire 1<sup>st</sup> day.

The last part of the chapter 24, talks about what happened that evening when Jesus appeared to his disciples.

Luke 24:36-49 Reading

### *1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the key to understand the message of the entire Bible.*

Then he said, "When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled."

<sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:44,45

Three times Jesus told his disciples this while he was with them: Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. Mark 8:31,32

How'd the resurrection change their understanding of scripture?

The Apostle Paul maybe the best-case study of this phenomena. He was an expert in the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms as a Jewish Pharisee. He too, believed the Messiah would come as a conquering deliverer of the nation of Israel but after meeting the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, he had time to contemplate the scriptures and recognize the "suffering servant" aspect the Messiah, who first had to become our sacrifice for sin. It changed Saul/Paul into the single greatest apologist for Jesus Christ and the Christian doctrine.

The resurrection had the same effect on Jesus' apostles, each one of them giving their lives ultimately, to die rather than recant what they had witnessed first-hand. Their testimonies grew the faith exponentially throughout the world.