



GOOD NEWS OF THE RESURRECTION

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 Lakewood
PRESS

GOOD NEWS OF THE RESURRECTION

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MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

"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.

For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."

Romans 10:9-10

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR



As Christians, our faith (as well as the Bible) centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ. All of his life, from birth to death, all of his teachings, and all of the miracles he performed are critical for us to understand who Jesus is and what he did for his people. Yet even as essential as all of this is to understand what he accomplished, the Scripture teaches that it is his resurrection from the dead that validates what we know to be true about him. As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians

15:14, “If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” Without his resurrection from the dead, everything else would have been void and lacking in ultimate significance. Without the resurrection, Jesus would have been known simply as a good man, a good teacher or a good prophet of God.

The Christian faith stands and falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus has not been raised from the dead, then we have no real hope in life, and we cannot be sure of the truth of his claims of Lordship. But, indeed, Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead! And his resurrection confirms his true identity—he is God incarnate, he is our Savior and he is Lord.

The message of the resurrection is good news that changes our lives now and forever. The great preacher George Whitefield, preaching on the power of the resurrection, praised, “O the depth of the riches and excellency of Christianity! ... Well might [Paul] desire so ardently to know Jesus and the power of his resurrection. For even on this side of eternity it raises us above the world and makes us to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Truly, by his resurrection we know Jesus is who he claimed to be, and in him there is hope in this life and hope for life after the grave.

I pray you’ll join us as we read, discuss, and worship in this study, *Good News of the Resurrection*, so that we too might “know Christ and the power of his resurrection” (Philippians 3:10).

Peace to you in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Smiley'. The signature is stylized and written over a circular mark.

Dr. Tyler Smiley

WEEK 1
1 CORINTHIANS 15

HOPE

*“If believers’ eyes are turned to the power of the resurrection,
in their hearts the cross of Christ will at last triumph
over the devil, flesh, sin, and wicked men..”*

— John Calvin (1509-1564)

DAY 1

READ 1 Corinthians 15:1-58

REFLECT

For many, the cross and the gospel are nearly synonymous. We rightly affirm that Jesus came to die for sinners like you and me. However, in order for the gospel to be truly good news we cannot stop there. The gospel story does not end in the grave. We must affirm with Scripture that the work of Christ extends beyond the cross through the grave to his resurrection and eventually to our own resurrection. With Paul, we assert, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins” (1 Cor 15:17).

The resurrection is our gospel hope. In fact, the gospel story will not be complete until Christ returns, resurrects all people, and makes all things new. The gospel proves to be so much more than an individual ticket to heaven. It is the good news that through Christ Jesus God is making all things new. One day, he will return and raise his people in resurrected bodies like his to live with him forever in the new creation.

The resurrection is our future hope, but Christ’s resurrection also serves to bring hope to our lives today. For those who are trusting in Christ, the Bible teaches, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life” (Rom 6:4). The Holy Spirit unites us through faith to Jesus, so that through the power of the resurrection, we now share in his new life. Like Paul, we confess, “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Gal 2:20). The resurrection is our hope.

- What about the resurrection brings you hope?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

“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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

As you pray, thank our Father for raising his Son from the grave and bringing new life to us through the Spirit. Praise God that he has power even over death.



DAY 2

READ 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

REFLECT

15:1-2 | What steps of the gospel coming into believers' lives does Paul outline here? How do you hold fast to the gospel?

15:3-5 | As Paul unpacks the gospel in these verses, what elements does he consider of first importance?

15:5-11 | Read Luke 24 about the appearance and resurrection of Jesus. What stands out to you about this account? In these verses in 1 Corinthians, why does Paul emphasize that the resurrected Jesus appeared to all of these people?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Pray for people in your life who need to hear and to believe this gospel. Pray for the opportunity to share these truths that are of first importance with them. Ask the Father to move in their hearts by the Holy Spirit so that they would come to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord.

DAY 3

READ 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

REFLECT

15:12-19 | Paul emphasizes the importance of the resurrection. What would be lost if there were no resurrection?

15:17 | The resurrection brings future hope, but it also brings hope in this life. According to verse 17, what power does the resurrection have in our lives today? Consider Romans 6:1-14.

How should the hope of the resurrection affect the way you live your daily life? Consider John 5:25-29.

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Pray Romans 15:13 for someone in your life: Father, may you, the God of hope, fill _____ with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit _____ may abound in hope.



DAY 4

READ 1 Corinthians 15:20-34 (important note on 15:29 on following page)

REFLECT

15:20-22 | What is the contrast that Paul draws between Christ and Adam? Who are we outside of Christ?

15:23-28 | Paul here describes what will lead up to and then follow the resurrection. What is the resurrected Christ doing now? How does the truth of Christ's present work comfort you?

15:29-34 | According to Paul, how did the hope of the resurrection change his life? How should it shape your life this week?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Praise Jesus Christ that he has risen from the dead and has given life to his people. Praise him that he now reigns at his Father's right hand and that even now he is at work to destroy death.

NOTE ON 1 CORINTHIANS 15:29

1 Corinthians 15:29 is a challenging verse, and its misinterpretation has sometimes led to strange and unbiblical practices. With any verse that seems unclear, we want to be sure and interpret it in light of the rest of Scripture. We believe the Bible is God's unified Word to us, and so it fits together as he ordained.

Keeping that truth in mind, it is easier to begin with what this verse does not mean. This verse does not teach that one can be baptized in this life for the benefit of a dead friend or family member—either a believer or nonbeliever. Such a practice would fly in the face of what the rest of the Bible teaches about how we are justified by grace through faith. Some interpreters try to get around the theological problem by saying that Paul is not advocating for the practice but merely referencing the practice in order to support his argument on the necessity of the resurrection. Such an interpretation proves unconvincing.

A slightly more convincing way of

reading the passages is by taking “dead” to mean not really and truly physically dead. So, some have thought that it means those who are “dead to the world” and just want to live for Christ. Others take it to mean, that Paul is referring to those on their deathbed who are “as good as dead.” This line of reasoning does not contradict what we believe theologically, but it does not seem to make the best sense of the passage.

The most convincing view suggests that baptism for the sake of the dead describes the practice of a person being baptized out of a desire to be reunited with a believing loved one who had died. This interpretation pictures the death of a believer leading to the conversion of an unbeliever who loved the dying believer. The hope of a reunion in the resurrection combined with the witness of that person dying in faith leads the unbeliever to repentance, faith, and baptism. Such a practice implies a belief in the resurrection of the dead when they would meet again.

DAY 5

READ 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

REFLECT

15:35-49 | What does Paul teach here about our resurrection bodies? Does it surprise you that in the new creation we will have bodies like Jesus's resurrected body?

15:50-57 | How does the hope of the resurrection take away the sting of death? As we continue to experience death and loss in this world, where can we look for comfort? Consider 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.

15:58 | In light of the resurrection, how does Paul call on us to live? What would it look like for you to live out this verse today?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Father, even now death still stings. Please help me to trust in you and to hope in the resurrection that Jesus will accomplish. Would you please work now to empower me by your Spirit to be steadfast, immovable, and abounding in Christ's work for your glory. Amen.

CONSIDER THE WAY YOU TALK, PRAY, AND SING ABOUT THE GOSPEL. Would anything in your language need to change if, hypothetically speaking, the resurrection did not happen? What does that reveal about the priority we place upon the resurrection?

15:3-5 | What does Paul consider to be of first importance when it comes to the gospel? Why would he include these elements?

15:12-19 | What would be lost if there were no resurrection?

15:19 | Why is hope beyond this life so important to us?

15:20-28 | What is the resurrected Jesus doing now? What will he accomplish before he delivers the kingdom to the Father?

15:35-49 | What does our future bodily resurrection teach us about God's concern for us physically? How should the hope of the resurrection affect the way we think about and treat our bodies?

15:50-58 | How have you experienced the hope of the resurrection bringing you comfort in the face of death?

15:58 | How does the hope of the resurrection enable you to live out this verse?

WEEK 2
ROMANS 4:23-25

JUSTIFIED

“He gave his own Son as a ransom for us, the holy One for transgressors, the blameless One for the wicked, the righteous One for the unrighteous, the incorruptible One for the corruptible, the immortal One for them that are mortal. For what other thing was capable of covering our sins than his righteousness? By what other one was it possible that we, the wicked and ungodly, could be justified than by the only Son of God? O sweet exchange! O unsearchable operation! O benefits surpassing expectation! That the wickedness of many should be hidden in a single righteous One, and that the righteousness of One should justify many transgressors!”

— Letter to Diognetus (c. 150)

DAY 1

READ Romans 4:1-25

REFLECT

To be justified before God means that he declares us as righteous. God counts us as righteous not because of anything that we have done but because of the work of Christ Jesus. Our heavenly Father credits Christ's righteousness to us. He covers us with Christ's righteousness so that he now looks on us and sees Jesus's life of perfect obedience rather than our sin. This is what Paul means when he explains in Romans 4:24 that righteousness "will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord."

As we trust in Christ through faith, God counts his righteousness as our own. Yet, there is another side to this exchange, for Jesus "was delivered up for our trespasses" (Rom 4:25). On the cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sin and disobedience. This is the sweet exchange of the gospel: Jesus takes on the punishment for our wickedness and grants us the reward for his righteousness.

Our justification depends upon the the resurrection of Jesus. We are declared righteous not just because of his death but also because of his resurrection. He was "raised for our justification" (4:25). Moreover, we receive this free gift of justification through faith, and it is the object of our faith who makes all the difference. We are to "believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord" (4:24). We put our faith in our Father who by his Holy Spirit raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

- What does it mean to be righteous?
- Why is it such good news that God counts Jesus's righteousness as our own when we trust in him?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

"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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

As you pray, thank our Father that he has made a way for us to be made right with him through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son.



DAY 2

READ Romans 4:23-25

REFLECT

In saying that Jesus “was delivered up for our trespasses” (4:25), Paul seems to be alluding to Isaiah 53. Read Isaiah 53:4-12. How was the prophecy from hundreds of years before Jesus’s birth fulfilled in his death on the cross?

What parallels do you see between Isaiah 53:11 and Romans 4:25?

What do the words “iniquities” (Is 53:11) and “trespasses” (Rom 4:25) mean?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Father, I thank you that together with your Son and Spirit it was your good and wise plan for you to send your Son to take on our sins and transgressions so that we could be counted righteous for his sake. Help me, I pray, to trust in Jesus and his finished work. Amen.

DAY 3

READ Romans 4:23-25

REFLECT

What does it teach us about the nature of our trespasses that the punishment Jesus received for them was the cross?

What does it teach us about the nature of God that he punishes sin rather than letting it slide? What does it teach us about him that he would come himself to bear that punishment for us?

Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Who were we before we knew Christ? Who are we now that God has poured out his mercy on us in Christ?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

As you pray, ask God to open your eyes to the reality of your own sin that you may grow in your love for him and gain a deeper appreciation for his grace in the gospel.



DAY 4

READ Romans 4:23-25

REFLECT

Jesus was “raised for our justification” (Rom 4:25), and to be justified means to be declared righteous. Read Philippians 3:8-9. According to this passage, whose righteousness is counted as ours? How do we receive this gift?

Continue in Philippians 3 and read verses 10-11. What does Paul mean in these verses? What would it look like to live these verses today?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

“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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

Thank God that through his gift of faith you can be counted as having his perfect righteousness. Thank him that through faith the Holy Spirit has united you to Jesus so that you are now “found in him.”

DAY 5

READ Romans 4:1-25

REFLECT

How was Abraham counted as righteous? How are we today counted as righteous?

How would you describe faith?

How would you respond if Paul asked you, do you believe “in him whom raised from the dead Jesus our Lord”?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

“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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

Jesus, during your life on earth, you responded in grace to the one who prayed, “I believe; help my unbelief” (Mk 9:24), and so today, I pray that you would help my unbelief. Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner. Amen.

4:22 | What was credited to Abraham as righteousness? See Romans 4:3 and Genesis 15:6. What does it mean that he was counted or reckoned as righteous?

4:23-24 | What do these verses reveal about Paul's understanding of the Old Testament? Why would this verse have been written for us?

4:24 | For our faith to be counted as righteousness, in whom must we believe? Why would Paul connect this faith with the resurrection?

4:25 | What truths about the work of Jesus do we learn from this verse?

4:25 | What is justification?

5:1-5 | What effect does this justification by faith have on our lives?

WEEK 3
ACTS 2:32-33

FILLED

“No sooner do I conceive of the one than I am illumined by the splendour of the three; no sooner do I distinguish them than I am carried back to the one. When I think of any of the three I think of him as the whole, and my eyes are filled, and the greater part of what I am thinking escapes me. I cannot grasp the greatness of that one so as to attribute a greater greatness to the rest. When I contemplate the three together, I see but one torch, and cannot divide or measure out the undivided light.”

— Gregory of Nazianzus (329-390)



DAY 1

READ Acts 2:32-33

REFLECT

The glorious truth of the resurrection animates our lives as Christians. Jesus rose from the dead, walked the earth again in his body, ate with his followers, and appeared to many. Yet, Jesus did not stay on earth. He has ascended into heaven and now is seated at the Father's right hand. (Acts 2:32, 1:6-11).

At his Father's right hand, the resurrected Christ continues his work. He rules and reigns over all things (Eph 1:20-22), and he intercedes for us with the Father (Rom 8:34). His work that becomes particularly clear in Acts 2 is that of sending the Holy Spirit. The risen and ascended Jesus pours out his Spirit on his people.

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The Spirit's work begins in our lives even before we come to faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts the world, leading unbelievers to realize their guilt apart from Jesus (Jn 16:8). The Spirit causes us to be born again (Jn 3:3-8) and gives us new hearts (Ezk 36:26). Only in and through the Spirit do we confess that Jesus is Lord (1 Cor 12:3).

Once we have been made new, given new hearts, and have come to saving faith, the Spirit continues his work in our lives. When we trust in Jesus, the Spirit seals us in Christ and so guarantees our redemption (Eph 1:13-14). Jesus baptizes us with the Holy Spirit to bring us into union and fellowship with himself (Jn 1:33; 1 Cor 12:13). He is the Spirit of adoption who allows us to cry out to God as Father and assures us of our salvation (Rom 8:15-16). He gifts and empowers God's people for the building up of the church (1 Cor 12:4-31) and for joining in God's mission (Jn 20:21-22). He brings unity and peace to the church (Eph 4:3). He fills believers so that all the fullness of God dwells with us (Eph 3:14-19; 5:18). The Spirit

(WEEK 3 DAY 1 CONTINUED)

produces godly fruit in our lives (Gal 5:22-23), he sanctifies us (2 Cor 3:18), and he puts sin to death in our lives (Rom 8:13).

The Spirit's work is essential and multifaceted in our lives. He comes to us because he has been sent by the risen and ascended Jesus, who is now seated at his Father's right hand.

- Where is Jesus now?
- Whom has Jesus sent?
- Why is this good news for us?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Thank Jesus for his continued ministry at the Father's right hand. Thank him particularly for sending his Holy Spirit to transform us and to dwell within us.



DAY 2

READ Acts 2:32-33

REFLECT

Compare this passage in Acts with Matthew 3:13-17 and Matthew 28:16-28. Who is present in all three of these passages?

How do these passages help us see that our God is Trinity? In other words, how do we see God revealed as both three-in-one and one-in-three in these passages?

Since the Holy Spirit is fully God—just like the Father and the Son—what does this mean about the worship and the glory that are due to him?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

The typical pattern of Scripture is for us to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Since the Spirit is fully God, it is good and right at times to pray directly to him. As you pray today, take time to thank the Spirit specifically for his work in bringing you to confess that Jesus is Lord (1 Cor 12:3).

DAY 3

READ Acts 2:1-47

REFLECT

2:1-13 | What happens to the disciples on this day? How do they respond?

2:36-41 | How does the crowd respond to Peter's sermon?

2:42-47 | What did the new believers do after they were filled with the Spirit, professed faith in Christ, and were baptized?

What would it look like for you to respond to the gospel today like these new believers in Acts 2?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Father, I pray that by your Spirit you would help me commit to the body of Christ, your local church. May I be devoted to your Word, to fellowship, to spending time with one another, to worshipping together through the Lord's Supper, and to praying with and for my church. May you be honored through this all. Amen.



DAY 4

READ John 15:15-16:15

REFLECT

Why does Jesus teach that it is to our advantage that he went away (Jn 16:7)? How does this truth connect with Acts 2:32-33?

According to Jesus, what does the Holy Spirit do when he comes?

Based upon Jesus's teaching, where has the Holy Spirit been at work in your life?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

As you pray, take time to thank Jesus for sending his Spirit to bear witness about him and to guide us into the truth.

DAY 5

READ Romans 8:1-17

REFLECT

8:5-8 | What does it mean to set our minds on the things of the Spirit? What steps can you take today to do this?

8:13 | According to this verse, how do we put to death our sinful actions? Why is his help such good news for us?

8:15-17 | As the Spirit of adoption, what does the Holy Spirit do in us? What does this teach us about how we pray?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

“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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

Thank God our Father for sending the Spirit to set you free in Christ Jesus so that you would no longer be enslaved to sin and are now able to cry out to God as your Father.

ACTS 2:32-33 | Who does Peter mention in these verses? Why is it significant that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work in unison for our salvation?

ACTS 2:32-33 | Where is Jesus now and what is he doing? In addition to Acts 2, consider Ephesians 1:20-23; Hebrews 1:1-4; Hebrews 8:2; Hebrews 10:12-14. What comfort and encouragement do these verses bring?

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? What essential truths about him does Scripture affirm? See Matthew 29:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14.

WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT DO? Review the following Scripture:

John 16:8

1 Corinthians 12:4-31

John 3:3-8

John 20:21-22

Ezekiel 36:26

Ephesians 4:3

1 Corinthians 12:3

Ephesians 3:14-19

Ephesians 1:13-14

Galatians 5:22-23

Romans 8:12-16

2 Corinthians 3:18

GALATIANS 5:16-26 | What does it mean to walk by the Spirit? How do we do this daily?

WEEK 4
ROMANS 10:9-10

BELIEVE

Mark, my dear brothers and sisters, the whole foundation upon which faith rests is Christ living in the flesh, Christ dying in that flesh, Christ rising from the dead, Christ pleading in glory on behalf of sinners. . . . This, then, is the object of faith—our one and only Savior, doing all, for all who trust him.

— Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

DAY 1

READ Romans 10:9-10

REFLECT

Our salvation comes through faith in the resurrected Lord. Through the resurrection of Jesus, we have hope, we are justified, and we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Our entire salvation hinges upon the resurrection. We depend upon the whole life, death, and resurrection of Jesus to enjoy what Christ offers: life now and forever with God himself. While we need all of Christ's person and work for our salvation, time and again, the New Testament emphasizes the centrality of the resurrection.

To confess that Jesus is Lord is to confess that he is none other than the one, true, and living God. This confession means that Jesus reigns supreme. He rules sovereignly over your life and tolerates no rivals. Jesus is Lord, and I am not.

Not only must we confess that Jesus is Lord, but Scripture also calls upon us to believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead. Belief in the resurrection proves central to our faith. Apart from the resurrection, our faith is worthless (1 Cor 15:14). A crucified savior who remained in the grave would have no salvation to offer, but our Savior has broken the bondage of sin and death through his resurrection.

Romans 10:9 calls upon us to believe. This word believe is the verb form of the word we translate faith. Thus, Paul says we must put our faith in the resurrection of Jesus. We can think about faith as having three essential parts: knowledge, assent, and trust. Faith in the resurrection means that we know the facts of the resurrection and that we assent to the truthfulness of those facts. Yet, knowledge and assent do not make faith. Faith also involves trust. We trust that through the resurrection Jesus redeems us for the glory of the Father.

- How would you describe faith to someone unfamiliar with the Bible?
- Why is the resurrection so important for us?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Thank the Father for sending his Son and Spirit so that we could receive his free gift of salvation simply by putting our faith in Jesus.

DAY 2

READ Romans 10:1-4

REFLECT

10:3-4 | The perfection and purity of God's love means that he is perfectly holy and requires perfect righteousness for anyone to enjoy life with him. What does it look like to try to establish your righteousness on your own? Why do these efforts ultimately fail?

10:4 | How can we receive God's righteousness as a gift through Christ? Consider Philippians 3:8-10.

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

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PRAY

Father in Heaven, thank you for the gift of your righteousness that you have given me in Jesus and applied to me through your Spirit. Amen.



DAY 3

READ Romans 10:5-13

REFLECT

10:5-9 | Righteousness based upon the law offers life to those who keep the commandments. According to verses 8-9, how does this compare with “the righteousness based upon faith”?

10:9-10 | Why does Paul include our response to the gospel from both our hearts and our mouths?

10:11-13 | Do you have trouble believing that this good news is for all kinds of people? Do you find it difficult to believe that it applies to you? Others? Reflect on the good news of Romans 1:16 for everyone.

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

“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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

As you pray, thank God for the gift of redemption that he freely offers to all who trust in Jesus.

DAY 4

READ Romans 10:14-17

REFLECT

“Faith comes from hearing” (10:17). Why is speaking the gospel out loud necessary for people to come to faith?

Did God need to involve us in his work of saving people? Why is it his good gift to us that he would allow us to be a part of his redeeming people?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

“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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

Pray that God would put an unbeliever on your heart. Commit to pray for this person and for continued opportunities to tell him or her about Jesus and his saving work.



DAY 5

READ Romans 10:18-21

REFLECT

In these verses, Paul strings together quotations from the Old Testament to demonstrate that the people of Israel have had the opportunity to hear the good news of what God is doing in Christ. Is merely hearing this good news enough? How does Scripture call us to respond?

Consider your own life. Have you only heard the Word of Christ and so remain a “disobedient and contrary” person? Or, have you heard the Word and responded in faith?

Is faith in Christ a one-time decision or a way of life? What steps will you take this week to live a life of faith?

MEMORIZE & MEDITATE

“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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” *Romans 10:9-10*

PRAY

Praise God that he is the God who saves. Thank him for the gospel of Jesus Christ and its power to save. Ask our Father to continue to work by his Spirit to grow your faith in his Son.

CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH

- What does it mean to confess that Jesus is Lord?
- What does it look like to live out this confession in our daily lives?
- Why would Paul include verbal confession with believing in your heart? Is belief not enough?

BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART

- Why do you think Paul highlights belief in the resurrection here rather than belief in the death of Christ? Must you believe in the resurrection to be a Christian?
- We often discuss being saved by faith alone. How would you describe faith?
- Do you consider trusting in Christ to be a one-time act or a way of life?

FAITH COMES BY HEARING

- According to verses 14-17, how does someone come to faith in Christ?
- What does that mean about the need to share the gospel?
- Did God need to involve us in his work of saving people? Why is it his good gift to us that he would allow us to be a part of his work of redeeming people?
- With whom are you seeking to share the gospel? Consider taking time to pray for their salvation and for opportunities to proclaim the gospel with them.

GOOD NEWS OF THE RESURRECTION

The resurrection is our **GOSPEL** hope. For many, the cross and the **GOSPEL** are nearly synonymous. We know that Jesus died for us, but in order for the **GOSPEL** to be truly **GOOD NEWS** we cannot stop there. The **GOSPEL** story does not end in the grave. We affirm with Scripture that the work of Christ extends beyond the cross through the grave to his **RESURRECTION** and eventually to our own **RESURRECTION**.



Lakewood
BAPTIST CHURCH

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