

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 3RD–5TH, 2026 // RESURRECTION

WHY WE'RE HERE (LUKE 24:1–8)

THE LIGHT AFTER IMMENSE DARKNESS

The entire Old Testament points to a coming Savior who would restore mankind by sacrificing His life (Deuteronomy 21, Isaiah 53, Exodus 12).

- Because humanity had strayed so far from God, **a sacrifice had to be made to pay for our evil and open a door so we could commune more closely with God.**

“HE IS NOT HERE, BUT HE HAS RISEN!”

Jesus' death wasn't the key to restoration as much as His resurrection was. Good people can die for others, but only **Jesus could give His life, resurrect, and atone for our sin.**

- **He also resurrected in order to share His Spirit and give us the hope of our resurrection and eternity with Him.**

CHRISTIANITY HINGES ON THE RESURRECTION

The belief that Jesus willingly died and rose on the third day for our salvation is the bedrock of Christianity.

We believe that Christ was more than just a good man. He is the Creator and Savior of mankind.

- **Without the resurrection, there is no Christianity or hope of salvation.**

UNDESERVED (MATTHEW 27:38–44)

UNPRECEDENTED BRUTALITY

The Roman empire had mastered the most extreme way to punish criminals. Crucifixion was not just death, but a humiliating and painfully slow death, typically caused by suffocation, heart failure, or blood loss.

- In Jerusalem, they would take people to Golgotha for public crucifixion.

WHY DID A PERFECT MAN HAVE TO DIE?

Jesus broke no laws and never sinned. Because He came as the remedy for and opposition to the broken ways of man, selfish people killed Him.

- The crucifixion was the plan since the fall in Genesis 3. It was awful that the Son of God had to die, but it was **the only payment large enough to cover our evil.**

AN ATONEMENT HAD TO BE PAID

Jesus' crucifixion between two criminals wasn't accidental. The placement of the Savior between sinners was a physical representation of a spiritual transaction.

- Because humanity is broken, **Jesus placed Himself among us to model a perfect life and sacrificed His so we could truly live.**

WE DESERVED IT, NOT HIM

Jesus became the object of the punishment we deserved, and **in His love for us, He bore our shame and agony.**

- **Knowing our rebellion and selfishness led to Jesus' crucifixion should humble us and inspire us to distance ourselves from the evil that contributed to the cross.**

TORN APART (MATTHEW 27:50–54)

THE DEATH OF CHRIST

After being tortured and hanging on the cross for six hours, Jesus “cried out again with a loud voice and gave up His spirit,” and **“suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn...the earth quaked, and the rocks were split.”**

- This “terrified” several soldiers, and they realized “this man was the Son of God!”

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEMPLE VEIL

The veil in the Jewish temple originated in the time of Moses, when the Jews were told to construct a mobile tabernacle to worship and house the presence of God (Exodus 26).

- This four-inch-thick curtain divided humanity from the Holy of Holies that housed the Ark that represented God's Spirit.

A SEPARATION THAT GOES WAY BACK

The separation from the fullness of God's presence began in Genesis 3 and continued with the rebellion of God's people in the OT.

- Because of our evil and sin, God limited human access to Him throughout the OT (Isaiah 59:2). But there was a plan in motion to restore that relationship.

“FROM TOP TO BOTTOM”

When we race through Scripture, we often miss amazing nuances. The mention of the veil ripping from “top to bottom” shows that this was an act from Heaven, not man.

- **Christ's death extended an invitation to all people to come and build a more intimate relationship with their Creator.**

AN ODD PASSAGE

Before Jesus' resurrection, Matthew 27:52–53 says, “tombs were also opened” and bodies of deceased saints “appeared to many.” Their tombs were opened at His death, but they didn't enter Jerusalem until after Jesus' resurrection.

- More than likely, this was foreshadowing the future resurrection of all Christians.

RESULTS OF THE TEAR (ROMANS 8:11–17)

A REVERSAL OF OUR MISTAKES

The veil being torn was an undoing of the separation between God and man, and Jesus' resurrection was the undoing of our fear of death. Both were brought on by our sin.

- **Today we celebrate the grace of God to give us a fresh start, guidance, strength, and the promise of Heaven!**

BECOMING THE TEMPLE OF GOD

The torn veil also symbolized that the Spirit of God no longer resided in a building but in His people. This makes followers of Christ the temples of God.

- **This shows God's love, that He desires to be with us all of the time, and that we are of tremendous value to our Creator!**

THE “SPIRIT OF ADOPTION”

Because we have access to God, we can be adopted children of the King. In this, we have **freedom to not “live according to the flesh” that leads to death.**

- Though we will not be perfect in this life, **we can be set free from destructive patterns and find true peace and contentment!**

OUR ADOPTION HAS AN INHERITANCE

The veil tearing wasn't just an invitation for mankind to be reconciled to God; it was also a foreshadowing of our inheritance.

- **Everyone who lives in a relationship with Jesus will be resurrected, given a “glorified body,” and live forever with God in Heaven as a “coheir” with Christ!**

WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

- We live in a world drowning in confusion, depression, fear, anger, anxiety, and lack of purpose and identity because we have put a distance between us and God.
- Navigating day-to-day life, much less finding joy and peace, is becoming increasingly difficult. **Our ways are not working!**
- God has made Himself accessible through Christ. This access offers **salvation, hope, love, contentment, and restoration!**
- **We have proven ourselves incapable of making it on our own. Our families, friends, society, and future are in jeopardy without Jesus and His Word leading us.**

IT IS TIME TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY

- Jesus died and resurrected so we can be saved and changed, but **we must take the initiative and choose to turn from (repent) our destructive paths and let Jesus lead us.**
- **We don't have forever to decide.** Every day we get closer to our death or His return, and the world will continue to spiral.
- **God loves us, and we can be saved and changed if we will humble ourselves.**
- God also wants His Spirit to reside in us. This **saves us from the ramifications of sin** (now and eternally), **gives us direction, enables us to truly love, and teaches us our real value, worth, and identity.**

WHAT NOW?

- We need to realize that we need help, ask for forgiveness, and **repent** (turn).
- Consider getting **baptized** A.S.A.P.
- **Pray** every day (P.R.A.Y.).
- Find a **church**, and go consistently.
- Get a **Bible**, start reading the NT first, and **obey** what the Word says!