

Summer Reading

WEEK
6

Introduction:

All summer long, we're reading and studying the books of First and Second Corinthians. How can these ancient texts speak to us today?

Scripture:

But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. 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. And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

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 15:12-20

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Discussion Questions:

1. What was the best part of your holiday weekend?
2. The sermon reminds us that we are people of hope. What's something you find easy to hope for right now? Where in your life does hope feel genuinely hard to hold onto, and what makes it feel that way?
3. Think about the most important relationships in your life — your closest friends, your spouse, your family. Do you want them to tell you the truth even when it's hard to hear, or do you tend to prefer comfort over honesty? Has your answer to that question ever cost you something?
4. The resurrection is described as God's ultimate answer to the question, "does my life have meaning?" How do you personally answer that question on your best day — and how do you answer it on your worst?
5. "Only with time and context will we understand the meaning of these events." Think of something difficult or confusing that happened in your own life that only makes sense now, looking back. What did time and perspective reveal that you couldn't see in the moment?
6. What do you actually believe about the resurrection of Jesus — not what you've been told to believe or what sounds right in church, but what you personally hold onto? What difference does that belief make in the way you live day to day?
7. If Jesus was never raised from the dead, what happens to the rest of the story? What happens to hope?
8. If the resurrection is real — and we believe it is — what does that mean for the hardest thing you're facing right now?