

# Journey to the Cross

*Disciples Today*

**Editors Note:** *Disciples Today is publishing this brief Quiet Time series for those who would like a guide to walking through “Passion Week” in the footsteps of Jesus.*

**To deepen your study, consider these options:**

- *Read the text in a different version than you normally use. Note the Bible Gateway tool on the left hand column of our site. You can access numerous versions here.*
- *Read the account of Jesus’ journey to the cross in each of the gospels. Most Bibles today give excellent cross references to similar passages in the other gospels.*
- *Create your own chronology of the events of Passion week in the order they happened, using information from each of the gospels. See how they harmonize into the greatest story ever told.*

## Monday: In Jerusalem to Die

### Approaching Jerusalem: Luke 18: 31-34:

*Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be handed over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him, spit on him, flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again." The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.*



Jesus knew what lay ahead for him in Jerusalem. Yet with trust in God and resolve he went forward to carry out God's will.

### The Triumphal Entry: Luke 19:28-44

Knowing what his future was in Jerusalem, what do you think was going through Jesus' mind as he rode into the walled city praised by the crowds? What temptations did he have to deal with in his heart?

**Application:**

Why am I a Christian? When I committed to be a disciple of Jesus did I know all that would lie ahead in my walk with God? Did I confess "Jesus is Lord!" at my baptism with conditions?

We cannot know where life will take our Christian walk, but we do know who we walk with. We can not know everything that will happen in the future or even the next few weeks but God does know and he has a purpose for everything and for me personally.

*Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you: declares the Lord..."*

**Personal decision and action:** (Take time to apply this passage to your life today.)

**Prayer:**

*Matthew 7:7-8 "Ask and it will be given to you: seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" ....*

## Tuesday: A Hero's Welcome -- A Savior's Heart

**Luke 19: 28-40:** *Jesus received a hero's welcome into Jerusalem on Sunday. During the week his authority and character were questioned and tested. What events do you think possibly happened on Tuesday? By Friday the crowds were yelling "Crucify him!" and were begging for the convicted murderer Barabbas to be released in his place. Jesus knew this betrayal was coming. How did he let people's opinions of him effect him, his love for them and his relationship with God?*



### **Application:**

We have lived through days when it is popular to follow Jesus and when popularity, motivation and excitement wane. Are you spiritually, emotionally and physically prepared for difficult times? Are you preparing your heart to be consistent and loving in spite of what others may say and do?

### **God says:**

**John 15:20** - *Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.'*

**Luke 19:41-48** *As Jesus entered Jerusalem he wept because, "You did not recognize the time of God's coming to you.."* The people in Jerusalem were preparing for Passover and gathering at the Temple with their lambs to sacrifice. Even as they were following the futility of the Law, God was preparing the perfect sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins. (Hebrews 9&10)

### **Application:**

We all desire to be close to God and yet sometimes we miss the most precious and powerful opportunities he provides. Going through the Easter holiday with its man-made traditions and our own familiarity can dull us and we can miss the deeper meaning and importance of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.

**God says:**

**1 Corinthians 15: 1-5** *Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance : that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.*

**Personal decision and action:** (Take time to apply this passage to your life today.)

**Prayer:** Write your own prayer to God

## Wednesday: The Conspiracies

**Luke 20 - 22:6:** *Jesus had plenty to fear upon entering Jerusalem. Yet he continued to preach boldly to the people about the will of God. Some of our greatest fears relate to other's opinions of us. Jesus was no different. Insecurities and fear can crumble us without anyone raising a hand to harm. Yet, Jesus' confidence was in God.*



1. His authority was constantly questioned Luke 20:1-8
2. Spies tried to sabotage him with the local government. Luke 20:20-26
3. Questioned on controversial matters: Money, resurrection, following governing authorities, his own identity etc. Luke 20
4. Insincere questioning to trap him Luke 20:20, 23, 26
5. He prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem. Luke 21:5-36
6. One of his closest friends betrays him. Luke 22:1-6

### **Application:**

And I think I had a bad day? Jesus knew who he was and whose he was. Like other men, he was not here to entrap and pass judgment, he was here to love and to save us. He did not come to manipulate men by cunning and crafty means. He handled difficult opposition with wisdom, peaceful trust, and confidence because he knew God would deal with them. Like the poor widow, [Luke 21:1-4] he did not worry about what others' thought nor what they would do with the gift. He was only here to please God. He did not compare himself to others but merely gave himself 100% to God's will without fear of men. He was too close to God and too secure in who he was to retaliate.

### **God Says:**

1 John 4: 16-18 *Perfect love casts out fear.*

Luke 20:25 *Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.*

Luke 20: 36 *They are God's children since they are children of the resurrection.*

Luke 21:3 *This poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.*

## **My Decisions & Actions:**

If I knew people were going to crucify me in two days, how would I treat them today?

When I am faced with the kind of trials Jesus had this last week of his life, how do I respond?

What can I imitate in Jesus in my most difficult test of today?

How can I imitate Jesus in how he answers his opponents?

## **Prayers:**

Write your prayer for God to create Jesus heart in specific areas of your life.

Additional resources:

- [\*The Cross\*](#), KNN Productions, 2001
- [\*No One Like Him: Jesus and His Message\*](#) by Tom Jones, DPI, 2002  
(Chapters reprinted on [Boston Church of Christ website](#).)
- [\*The Revealer\*](#) by Curt Simmons, IPI, 2005

[\*Matthew - The Crowning of the King\*](#) by Steve Kinnard, IPI, 2004



## Thursday: The Passover Fulfilled

Read: Mark 14:12-26; John 13:1- 15:17; Luke 22:24-38

*Twelve Lords, One Servant* from *The God of the Towel* by Jim McGuigan

"There were 13 men in an upper room - how many servants and how many lords?

One Lord and 12 servants sound like the right answer, but is it? The truth is there were twelve lords and one Servant! Only one man in the room knew anything about service.

In the end, that is why he was made Lord. Down through the ages God has given power to many men and women; but only one really knew how to use it.

... [God gave Jesus] power to understand Scripture and saw him use it in the temple for his Father's honor. Later still, he gave him power over bread, and he fed people; he gave him power over disease, and he healed people; he gave him power over death, and he raised people; he gave him power over sin, and he forgave people. And God watched it all with admiration, knowing that there, finally, was a human who knew what to do with power from God - he blessed and redeemed people! So he gave him power over his own life. And what did he do? He laid his life down for others! No wonder the Father said of him, *This is my Son whom I love; with him I am well pleased.*

... We mustn't think that Jesus the Christ has all authority just because he's greater than us; he has all authority because he is better than us."



### God Says:

Philippians 2:1-11 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ*

*Jesus: Who being in the very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

### A Covenant Made

Luke 22:15 - 20 *And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he*



*gave thanks...And he took the bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after the supper he took the cup saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."*

The Passover feast ends with everyone looking for the Messiah. Jesus was excited to celebrate this Passover with his closest friends because he knew he was the fulfillment of God's promise to the Jews and to all people. His disciples could not fully grasp this until after the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. He knew they would all desert him and one would even take money to betray him in his darkest hour of life. Yet he loved first and always.

### **Application:**

Jesus made a commitment as binding as a written will to lay down his life for us. His verbal commitment was not made lightly or out of an emotional state. He lived out this covenant in small acts of service as well as in his death. We made a statement of commitment in our covenant with God when we confessed "Jesus is Lord!" [Romans 10:8-10] Like him, our covenant is not sealed by lip service, but by the blood of Christ and the Holy Spirit [Ephesians 4:20] for the purpose of being "living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God" [Romans 12:1, 2 Timothy 2: 19; 1 John 3:16].

If Jesus lived out his commitment to me, the way I live out mine to him, how would I be doing?

### **Jesus' Teachings and Prayers:**

Jesus prayers during this time of agony, at the threshold of the supreme spiritual battle of all times, reflect His pure love for God and us. A man's last words are often the most important. John details the teachings and prayers of Jesus during the Passover celebration in John 13 – 17. Please read this account to fully appreciate the strength of his desire to glorify God and his heart of concern for us.

1. Jesus washes the disciple's feet. John 13: 1-17
2. Jesus predicts his death and Peter's denial. John 13:18-38
3. Jesus says he is "the Way, the Truth and the Life". John 13:1-14
4. He promises the Holy Spirit. John 13:15-31; 15:26-16
5. The vine and the branches illustration. John 15:1-17
6. He prepares them for persecution. John 15:18-16:4
7. He comforts them. John 14:1-4; 16:17-33



8. Jesus prays for himself. John 17:1-5
9. He prays for his disciples. John 17:19
10. He prays for all believers throughout time. John 17:20-26

### **Response and Action:**

- When I enter a room, what is my first thought about my role in the crowd?
- In Jesus' situation at the Last Supper, how would I have washed Peter's feet? Judas' feet?
- In my last hours, what will I pray?
- What can I learn from Jesus' sense of destiny and purpose?
- What tends to disconnect me from the heart and soul of Jesus? From my brothers and sisters?
- When people disappoint or betray me, how does it affect my relationship with them and with God?
- With the knowledge of who the Messiah is, how can I lay down my life for my friends?

### **Prayer:**

Using John 17 as inspiration, write out your own prayer for yourself, your fellow Christians and for all who will follow Jesus in the future. Obviously, we are not Messiahs. We only need one. But we are his disciples.

### **Additional resources:**

- *The Cross*, KNN Productions, 2001
- *No One Like Him: Jesus and His Message* by Tom Jones, DPI, 2002 (Chapters reprinted on [Boston Church of Christ website](#).)
- *The Revealer* by Curt Simmons, IPI, 2005

[\*Matthew - The Crowning of the King\*](#) by Steve Kinnard, IPI, 2004

## Friday: The Day that Changed the World

### He Could Have Changed His Mind:

Mark 14:32-42; Matthew 26:36-46;

Luke 22:36 - 46

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus struggled in prayer, agonizing over the suffering awaiting him. Three times he begged God, “*My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.*” Jesus was not a programmed robot. He was a physical man with emotions that could be damaged and a body that could be tortured and destroyed. He was also fully God. (Colossians 2:9)

He could have called down legions of angels to end the travesty. Nails couldn't keep him on the cross. Only love.



*Romans 5: 6 You see at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### He Chose To Do This For Me

As you read the day's accounts of the crucifixion in Matthew 26 & 27; Mark 15; Luke 23 and John 19; let yourself realize that he was doing all this for you personally. We deserve rejection, punishment, death and separation from God for our sins but Jesus did not. Yet he pushed through the painful beatings, the mocking, the betrayal, the humiliation, the nails driven in his hands and feet and his torturous death so we would have forgiveness, healing and reconciliation with God.

Here are some ideas to deepen our understanding of the crucifixion:

- After reading the Bible account of the crucifixion, watch *The Cross* (KNN, 22 minutes) or *The Passion*.
- Write down or share with a friend: the moments that would have been the hardest for you if you were to go through the same experience.
- Write a chronology of the events of the day. Some gospels focus on different times during the day. Compile all the accounts into one.

## He Chose to Take Our Punishment

God is pure love. (1 John 4:16)

We are children created to be loved by him. God is also pure righteousness, truth, justice and holiness. He created us with the ability to choose to love and obey Him or not. By our own free choice, we sinned. We all have sinned (Romans 3:23) causing the intimate connection between us and God to break down.



Isaiah 59:1-2 says that our sin separates us from God. God, in fact, is the total absence of sin; it is impossible for Him to be in a relationship with sin.

The dilemma began in the Garden when God's beloved children rebelled and sinned against Him. Sin spread like a murderous cancer from person to person with each one making his or her own choice. How could God restore the relationship with His children and also between His children without compromising his own justice and righteousness? It took extreme measures and the supreme sacrifice of a pure, sinless life to appease righteous justice. Consider for a minute...what could possibly bring about a peaceful relationship and satisfaction of justice to a victim who has suffered beatings, murder, rape, stealing, malice, greed, betrayal, torture, deceit, faithlessness, gossip etc. etc.? Has any human found such a solution? Jesus is the solution. He received the punishment that all mankind deserves so that justice is satisfied.

*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*

*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 6:23-24*

## He Chose To Give His Life

Jesus was Jewish. He knew the Law intimately. He kept it perfectly. He was aware of that God had established blood sacrifices for the atonement of sins. During the Passover week, the streets were crowded with Israelites lumbering along carrying their animal sacrifices to the Temple. It was an imperfect system, using the blood of innocent animals, kept until the perfect sacrifice for man could be found. *"For the life of a creature is in the blood,*

*and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life." Leviticus 17:11*

How many sacrifices did Jesus watch knowing he would soon be shedding his own blood as the only hope for the undeserving multitudes of guilty lives? He struggled with the painful reality but surrendered his will to God for our sakes.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

*Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! Romans 5:9*

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace. Ephesians 1:7*

### **Application:**

Take time today to focus on Jesus' heart, mind, soul and strength. Satan was at the most powerful point in his existence, while God, wearing the frail flesh of man, was at his weakest.

How did Jesus prepare to handle the greatest spiritual battle of all time?

How can I become more like Him knowing that, too often, just one jeering, hateful comment can dissipate my faith and courage?

How did God's grace motivate Jesus? How did the truth motivate him?

How grateful am I on a daily basis for what Jesus did for me?

Am I continuously growing deeper in my understanding of the Cross?

How does the Cross relate to my behavior? To my attitudes?



### **Prayer:**

Have a Gethsemane prayer. List the things that tempt you the most to back away from dying to yourself for God and for others.

Agonize in prayer through the list.

Pray through to resolution, ". . .

## **Saturday: If Every Day Were This Saturday**

As kids, most of us wished every day was Saturday. But what if every day were like this particular Saturday? The Saturday that Jesus was dead and buried. No one saw his face, heard his voice or felt his love and they thought they never would again. What would life be like without Jesus? What was your life like before you knew Jesus?

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

- How would Mary have answered that question?
- How would Peter have answered it?
- How would Judas have answered it?
- Were Caiaphas, Pilate and the Sanhedrin celebrating Jesus' death and feeling proud they had taken down the systemic evil?
- Was anyone from the mob shouting for Jesus death suffering doubts?
- Most importantly, how do I answer that question?

### **God says:**

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation. Colossians 1:20-22*

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. 1 Peter 2:9*

### **We were under the control of our sinful natures:**

*Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.*

*I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to*



*holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6: 16-23*

*So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:16-21*

### **We had no hope in this life or the next.**



*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death...Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. Hebrews 2:13-18*

*But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. Hebrews 9:26-28*

### **Application:**

- When life gets dark, does it seem that Jesus is still in the tomb to me?
- What if Jesus had never come out of the tomb? Contemplate on how you would have had no hope to come out of your sinful nature.
- Was my sinful nature ever put to death and buried as the Bible teaches? (Romans 6)

If it was, am I tempted to go dig it up again because I miss it or because I still feel guilty about it?



- If my sinful nature was crucified and buried, am I enjoying my spiritual nature the way God wants me to?

Read Isaiah 53 and make it personal by inserting your name. i.e.

In verses 4 and 5:

*Surely he took up \_\_\_\_\_'s infirmities and carried \_\_\_\_\_'s sorrows, yet \_\_\_\_\_ considered him stricken by God, smitten by him and afflicted. But he was pierced for \_\_\_\_\_'s transgression, he was crushed for \_\_\_\_\_'s iniquities.*

God doesn't want me to live in constant guilt because Jesus died for me. He wants me to be alive in Christ. How can I be more alive in Christ celebrating Jesus' death for me?

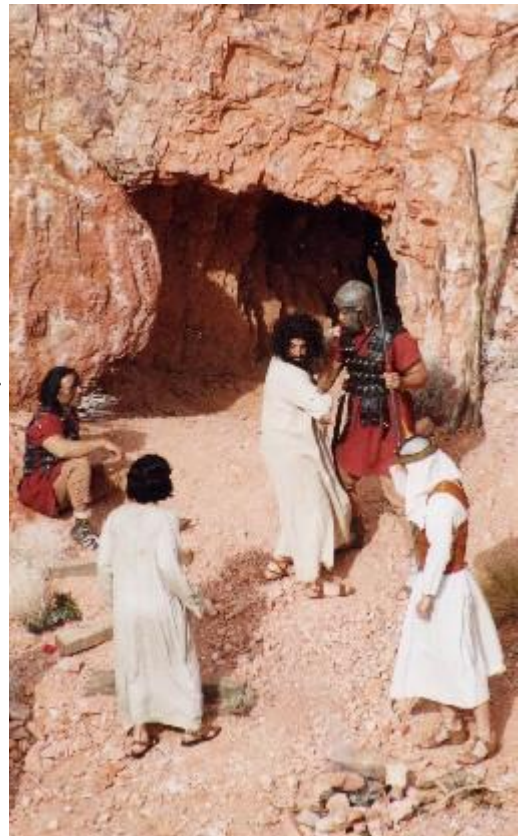
## Sunday: Resurrected Faith

**Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 28:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-13**

In the gospels, Jesus broke up every funeral he attended – including his own. At the others he raised the widow’s son or his dear friend Lazarus. This time he came out of the tomb himself. That’s what he does.

The outcome was totally in the hands of God. Jesus was dead. The apostles were in hiding. Undoubtedly some of the disciples were feeling foolish for ever being radical supporters for him. Maybe they were regretfully counting the money and devotion they had given him.

What was the difference between Jesus and his followers? The last words heard from Jesus speak volumes to us now: “Father into your hands I commit my Spirit” and “It is finished.” His words and his life expressed complete trust and obedient faith. If his whole life had been a carefully scripted plan, without faith, his last words might have been delivered with a confident smile and a witty retort, “I’ll be back.” No, like us, he lived his life tempted to quit, doubt and compromise. Yet he lived and died obedient in total faith that God kept his promises. (Hebrews 11:1, 6)



*During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Hebrews 5:6-8*

### **Was It Worth It?**

Before the resurrection, Jesus’ ministry was apparently a failure. Only a handful of his closest followers stayed by him, and they didn’t fully understand him. One of them betrayed him and, in remorse, committed suicide. One of his closest friends under pressure denied he had ever met him. Probably hundreds claimed that, though they had followed him, they saw through him all along. In the end, the majority of the crowd, including religious leaders, rejected him as a messenger of God and demanded his heinous death. His days were full of weary fatigue with no place to lay his head, no loving wife, no precious children, no wealth, none of the earthly comforts we expect. Was it worth

leaving heaven and giving his whole life to something that demanded everything of him and seemingly gave nothing back? All those questions were suddenly answered when he burst from the tomb and changed the course of the world.

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-3*

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:2-4*

Jesus won the victory over death enabling him to return to His father in Heaven. Amazingly, his resurrection provided us with inexpressible benefits and grace when we accept Him as our Lord and Savior with whole-hearted love, faith and obedience. If just one person joined him in his resurrection over sin and death, it was worth it. That is why he came. That is what he does.

### **Resurrection for Me**

Because of his resurrection, we have hope of a spiritual resurrection through repentant death to our sinful nature, burial of our old sinful life in baptism and resurrection to a new life in Him. (Romans 6, 8) Here are just a few of the many benefits of his resurrection:

- Freed from sin (Romans 6:5-7)
- Becoming a child of God (John 1:12)
- Justified (Romans 5:1)
- United with Christ (Romans 6:5; I Corinthians 6:17)
- The gift of his Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
- Free from Condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)
- No separation from God's love (Romans 8:35-39)
- A citizenship in Heaven (Philippians 1:6)
- Grace and mercy (Hebrews 4:16)
- Protection from Satan (1 John 5:18)
- Eternal purpose as God's ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)
- Freedom to approach God with confidence (Ephesians 3:12)
- Become a member of his family, his Church, his Kingdom (1 Corinthians 12:27)

## **The Resurrection Power in My Life**

*And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Romans 8:11*

Am I living with the resurrection power in my life? The Bible says that I have the same power of the Holy Spirit working in my life, as Jesus had when he was raised from the dead. How am I relying on and using that power today? Is that power helping me face the hardships in my life with the same joy Jesus had when faced rejection and death? Am I using confident, resurrection power to fight my spiritual battles and overcome the strongholds of sin in my life? (2 Corinthians 10:3-7)

## **Faithful Perseverance for a Heavenly Resurrection**

Jesus' resurrection gives us hope and power to live in this sinful world. His resurrection also opened the door for us to enter Heaven if we do not give up.

*Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. ...Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. Hebrews 4:1-2, 13-15*

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. ...He who overcomes will inherit all this and I will be his God and he will be my son." Revelation 21:1- 7*

## **He Will Help You get There!**

*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6*

## **Application**

The study of the most important week in the world is nearly over but the most important decisions of our lives may still lay before us.

- Will I live out the rest of my life and into eternity as if this week never happened?
- Or will I carry its significance strengthen and motivate me every day of my life?
- Will I let others' attention, decisions or harmful sin distract me or will I hold onto Jesus?
- Am I more influenced by my culture, nationality, race or by the Christ?
- Do I have a relationship with God that will see me through to eternity?
- Have I buried my faith? Will I let Jesus break up the funeral for my faith?
- Will I use my life to help others be reconciled to God as I have been?
- Will I take up my cross daily? If I have laid it down will I pick it up again? (Luke 9:23)

I am free to choose. When I really see Jesus walking out of that tomb, how can I choose anything but Him? And how in the world can I keep quiet about Him?

*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. 1 Corinthians 15:55 - 58*

*Additional resources:*

- *The Cross, KNN Productions, 2001*
- *No One Like Him: Jesus and His Message by Tom Jones, DPI, 2002 (Chapters reprinted on Boston Church of Christ website.)*
- *The Revealer by Curt Simmons, IPI, 2005*
- *Matthew - The Crowning of the King by Steve Kinnard, IPI, 2004*