

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of April 7, 2024 A.D.

Death and Resurrection - We Need Both

On Good Friday, we mourn the death of Jesus. On Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. However, our mourning and our celebration are meaningless unless we have been personally crucified and resurrected with Christ.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Hebrews 10:5-14

1. If Jesus had not come into the world to offer his body - through death - as a sacrifice for the sins of all of mankind, (a) would it be fair for God to punish people who sin? (b) would it be fair for God to impose the death penalty on people who sin?
2. Jesus is God. So, in reality, God took upon Himself the death penalty for your sin. Is this an act of mercy? Is this an act of love? If so, is it fair for God to require that you make a personal response to His mercy and love before you can be pardoned from the death penalty for your sin?

Read Romans 8:1-4

3. "Condemnation" means punishment for doing wrong. According to these verses, why is there no condemnation "for those who are in Christ Jesus"? What does it mean to be "in Christ Jesus"? What is "the law of sin and death"? How has Jesus set mankind "free from the law of sin and death"?
4. Who or what is "the Spirit of life" (consider 1 John 5:11-12) mentioned in verse 2? What does it mean to live (a) "according to the sinful nature"? and (b) "according to the Spirit"? What are the "righteous requirements of the law"? How have those requirements been "fully met" in (a) Christ? And (b) all believers in Christ?
5. What are some of the real-life behavior changes which can be experienced by a person who has been set free from the law of sin and death? Please be detailed and specific in your answers.
6. Do these verses teach that every Christian can and/or will experience absolute, unrestricted freedom in his or her life?

Read John 3:17-18 and 1 John 2:1-2

7. Did Jesus die for the sins of every person who has ever lived? Is every person who has ever lived (a) loved by God? (b) free from God's condemnation? (c) going to heaven?

8. What does it mean to "believe in" Jesus? Do you believe in Jesus? How and/or when have you expressed your belief in Jesus in the past? How and/or when do you express your belief in Jesus on a continuous daily basis?

Read John 3:16 and Revelation 20:11-15

9. What is the final destiny of any person who does not believe in Jesus? Why? Is this fair?

10. In your opinion, what are some of the obstacles which keep a person from believing in Jesus for eternal life? What are some of the reasons that you have heard people offer to explain why they do not believe in Jesus as their savior and Lord?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 17

11. In verse 14, who is the one who died for all? What does Paul mean when he writes "therefore all died"? Have you died? Is the death which "all have died" (and which you have died) a requirement for the receiving of eternal life?

12. Read verse 15. Are all people everywhere expected to live for Jesus? Are all Christians expected to live for Jesus? If not, why not? If so, (a) do they? and (b) how?

Consider: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation! The old you has died; and, the new you is now hidden with Christ in God. Therefore, offer yourself to God as a resurrected follower of Christ, as one who has been brought from death to life. This is the message of the gospel. "You think about that." Amen.