

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Happy Day, Great Things, King of Kings

WELCOME

How was your celebration of Holy Week different this year from previous years? What was your most meaningful realization about this holiday in relation to what's happening in our world today?

WORD

1 PETER 3:13-15

¹³Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, ¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

In the midst of this unprecedented pandemic, we find that there is still reason to celebrate and rejoice – CHRIST'S RESURRECTION! As we commemorate this amazing historic event, in it we find a great and overwhelming joy today.

Our grave concern about COVID 19 clearly brings out our fear of death. We sometimes think that death is the end of life, forgetting that we are all just passing through on earth. Eternal life awaits, and there is no other religion or person who can claim victory over death apart from JESUS – the only One who conquered death! In a seemingly hopeless situation, where do you look for HOPE? Hope is so crucial to our daily existence. Research shows that people without hope are the most susceptible to sickness and death.

The apostle Peter tells us in **1 Peter 3:14** not to be afraid or be troubled, and then he points his readers towards the HOPE that is IN US. It is JESUS CHRIST alone! Therefore, Jesus has to be central in everything in life. This means that we must take into consideration what JESUS wants us to do in every situation we find ourselves in. Peter instructs believers to sanctify Christ as Lord – which means that you do not only do what He wants you to do, but you also uphold Him as your Source of confidence. Peter then encourages his readers that their lives should be so distinctly different so that others who do not believe will see that HOPE IN CHRIST is so much more than any other earthly source of hope. In fact, we are expected to be able to explain this to others effectively. HOPE in the Bible means CERTAINTY – and that is why it is very important to put our HOPE in CHRIST, the RISEN LORD!

Hebrews 11:1 said “faith is the assurance of things hoped for...”. Faith and hope are like a pair of wings – they work together. Our Christian life will soar in Christ alone!

When we say our HOPE is in CHRIST, we have to look at three things that form the basis for this unshakeable confidence we have: His **CLAIMS**, the **PROOFS** He gave, and the **IMPLICATIONS** of His resurrection from the dead.

1. HIS CLAIMS

The Only Way: Jesus said, “I am the only Way” (**John 14:6**) and it sets Him apart from all the other founders of various religions in the world. His claim was specific – He is the ONLY way – and therefore, Jesus defined His ministry with such great and impeccable precision!

God: In the Old Testament (**Isaiah 44:6**), God spoke of who He is – the King, Redeemer, and the LORD of Hosts, the first and the last. In the New Testament, Jesus made the same claim in **Revelation 1:17-18**!

Gives Eternal Life: In **John 10:22-33**, the Jews demanded that Jesus reveal once and for all if He was indeed the Christ – the promised Savior. Jesus answered that He has the power to give eternal life. In **v.30**, Jesus stated, “I and the Father are one.” The word “one” used was in the **neuter form**, which means they are one in **ESSENCE**. Who alone can give eternal life other than God? The people understood this, so they wanted to stone Him for blasphemy.

Grants Forgiveness: In **Mark 2:3-5**, Jesus declared to the paralyzed man that his sins were forgiven. This was attributed as blasphemy on the part of Jesus, and this was why the religious leaders wanted to kill Him (blasphemy was punishable by death). People doubted His ability to forgive sins, but He showed His authority over all by commanding the paralytic to stand up and walk. The people were amazed and glorified God upon seeing this (**Mark 2:6-12**)!

2. PROOFS

His Resurrection: Put simply, the proof of who Jesus is, was His RESURRECTION (**Romans 1:3-4**), the most important evidence of Christianity! We believe in Jesus because we know from historical and Biblical accounts that He died and rose again – a foundational truth for us Christians. Many people can make claims, as what other religious leaders are doing. But why is our HOPE so secure? **1 Corinthians 15:1-4** tells us that the most

WORD (cont'd)

important truth of the gospel is that Jesus died, and He rose again on the third day, in fulfillment of prophecies made about Him in the Scriptures.

Legal Method: Science is not the only way to access and assess truth claims. **1 Corinthians 15:5-8** mentions to whom Jesus appeared. These eyewitnesses include James (brother of Christ who did not believe in Jesus but eventually led the church in Jerusalem), Paul (who, as Saul, persecuted Christians), and even to the infamous doubting Thomas (**John 20:26-28**). These are credible legal evidence from these “adversarial witnesses”.

Martyred Followers: The 11 of the 12 apostles of Jesus died for their faith. To risk your life for something that you know is not true is something that you just don't do – but they willingly gave their lives to prove their belief that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was TRUE, and ultimately important. They have encountered the reality of the resurrection and did not fear death because of this truth.

3. IMPLICATIONS

We are given these wonderful ASSURANCES as we HOPE in JESUS CHRIST:

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.** How is your sense of hope nowadays considering the pandemic? Have you experienced feeling hopeless?
- 2. Setting It Right.** There might be times when your hope was anchored on something else apart from Christ. Reflect, and afterwards confess it to one another and pray for each other that you all will put your hope for salvation in Christ alone.
- 3. Living It Out.** List down 1-2 verses from this lesson that are most meaningful to you. How will you apply the truth in these verses in your life this week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Continue to pray for our frontliners, the sick and their families, our government leaders. Share the message of hope that you have heard this Resurrection Sunday to friends, family, and others who do not know it. There are many ways to do it online, so be a light unto others and choose to give them the hope that we all enjoy in Christ Jesus, the Risen King!

Assurance of Forgiveness: **1 Corinthians 15:17-19** reminds us of the assurance of our forgiveness. Many of us have skeletons in our closet. We have done things we know we should not have done, but knowing that Christ can offer absolute, complete pardon and forgiveness, it gives us hope!

Power: We not only have assurance of forgiveness, but according to **Ephesians 1:18-20**, we are also assured that the same power that made the resurrection possible is at work in us to accomplish His purpose for us.

Eternal Life: In **John 11:25-26**, Jesus said that He is the resurrection and the life. All who believe in Him will enjoy eternal life with Him!

Glorious Future: **1 Peter 1:3-5** promises that our future is so glorious. It is guaranteed and protected by God Himself. That is why we can choose not to fear or be troubled, because a great future awaits us with the Risen King who will be worshipped forever – Jesus Christ, whose resurrection we celebrate and remember this Sunday!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Wisdom, protection and saving faith for the frontliners and government leaders
- Nations around the world to recognize God as the only one who can end this pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends