**Offended by the Resurrection of Jesus**

**Matthew 28:1-15, Pew Bible p. 835**

**April 20, 2025**

# **Why the Resurrection is So Important to Christians (V. 1-10)**

## If Jesus did not resurrect from the dead, the eyewitnesses lied.

## If Jesus did not resurrect from the dead, the Scriptures are false.

## If Jesus did not resurrect from the dead, our faith is futile.

# **Why the Resurrection is So Offensive to Non-Christians (V. 11-15)**

## If Jesus did resurrect from the dead, all other religions lied.

## If Jesus did resurrect from the dead, all other gods are false.

## If Jesus did resurrect from the dead, all our resistance is futile.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Read Matthew 28:1-15

2. Did the followers of Jesus expect Him to rise from the dead? Why?

 a. Have you ever been surprised at God doing something He promised?

 b. How did that impact your faith?

3. What is the theological significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

a. What would we *not* have if Jesus did not raise from the dead?

4. Why do you think the Jewish leaders were so determined to keep the resurrection under wraps?

 a. What are some works of God that the lost world is trying to suppress today? Why?

5. What is God emphasizing in your heart this Easter season?

a. Who are people in your life you want to tell about the power of Jesus over sin?

b. How can you go about telling these people about Jesus?

6. Pray for our church to celebrate the resurrection faithfully and call our city to repentance and faith. Come to the church prayer meeting this Wednesday from 6:00-6:30 pm in the Worship Center lobby.

 **Prayer Guide for Sunday, April 20**

***John 4:21-24 (ESV)***

*21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

**Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting:**

* PRAYING for both those preparing for baptism to follow through with their commitments and be blessed by their obedience to Christ.

**Pray for Our Church Family Needs:**

* PRAY for missions and missionaries:

Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona; Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Glendale, Arizona.

* PRAY for all our students: elementary school, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
* PRAY for family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus:

Sharon L. (children & grandchildren); Marge D. (son, Matthew); Rezwana D. (parents); Margaret J. (Tom & Bob); Gary & Betty B. (grandchildren & siblings); Charity M. (daughter); Kayla P. (nephew, Jordan); Michelle LaM. (son); and Debbie B. (son-in-law);

* PRAY for families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:

Del M. (wife), Bonnie V. (husband), Mel A. (wife), Kasuma A. (grandnephew), Gary C. (wife), Darlene R. (Husband), Woody (Barbara S.), Ashley S. (grandmother), Kate D. (mother)

* PRAY for those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:

Betty W. (car accident), Helene D. (move), Gaylon K. (surgery), Anne W. (health), Joy M. (injury)

* PRAY for others that you are aware of.