

Peterson: “The practice of resurrection is an intentional, deliberate decision to believe and participate in resurrection life, life out of death, life that trumps death, life that is the last word, Jesus life. This practice is not a vague wish upwards but comprises a number of discrete but interlocking acts that maintain a credible and faithful way of life, Real Life, in a world preoccupied with death and the devil.”

David French: “It is Christ's defeat of death that makes the entire ‘upside-down’ kingdom of God viable. If there is nothing beyond this earth, why should the last be first? Why should we love our enemies? How could one possibly say that we gain our lives by losing our lives?”

### LIVE THE STORY

*The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

#### Love the Gospel

- Why is it a reasonable to urge people to live in a “Resurrection or bust!” kind of mentality? What does that mean?
- How does John’s symbolism communicate the idea of new creation in the tomb/resurrection scenes in John’s Gospel?

#### Live the Gospel

- Discuss the common notion, “If you become a Christian and it turns out to be false, then you’ve lost nothing”? Is it true? Explain.
- Explain: “The Resurrection is not a single event in history that happened once and that’s it; it’s the first of many resurrections in him.”
- How does Paul suggest that the Resurrection should impact our lives?
- What does E. Peterson’s mean by his description of how “most of our ancestors in both Israel and church have spent most of their time watching the paint dry”? What do you think of that?

#### Advance the Gospel

- How does Ecclesiastes 1:2 explain the need for resurrection? Why is everything futility? (How did it happen?) Why might this be helpful when explaining the Gospel to unbelievers?
- Why might it be harder to sell a costly version of Christianity than a meeting felt needs version? Why is a costly version more effective in the long run?

## Resurrection or Bust!

Jerry Cisar — Easter, April 17, 2022

Text: 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

### Introduction

#### I. Everything is Futility

“Absolute futility,” says the Teacher. “Absolute futility. Everything is futile.” (Eccl. 1:2 CSB)

##### A. Futility

##### B. Futility in the Tomb (John 19:38-42)

- i. Nicodemus brought about 100 Roman lbs. of myrrh and aloes to cover the stench of death.
- ii. Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus do everything they can to preserve the dead body of Jesus, but it’s futility!

##### C. Why all this futility?

- i. The Garden
- ii. What we need is a new garden and a new gardener!

## II. Resurrection Transforms Everything (19:41—2:18)

- A. John the apostle loves symbolism.
  - i. Throughout his Gospel there are repeated allusions to Genesis.
    - a) John 1:1-2
    - b) John 9
  - ii. Mary Magdalene encounters the gardener.
- B. Jesus is called the firstborn 8x in the NT.
  - i. Luke 2:7
  - ii. Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5
  - iii. Colossians 1:15
  - iv. Romans 8:29
  - v. Hebrews 1:6; 11:28; 12:23
    - 1 Corinthians 15:22
- C. Forty days after the Resurrection was the Ascension.

*When Christ, through whom all things were made, died, then all died in him. When Christ was raised to life, all are raised to life in Him.*

*Everything in this creation is subjected to futility. It will die; but in Christ everything is recreated!*

## III. The Resurrection Transforms Us

- A. The authority of Adam, sin, and death vs. the authority of Jesus, righteousness, and life!
  - 2 Corinthians 5:17
- B. Since in the Resurrection Christ is the firstborn of many brothers and sisters, it's the first of many *resurrections* in him.
  - i. Romans 6:3-7
  - ii. Colossians 2:12
- C. The new creation is not all glory (1 Cor. 15:30-32)

Eugene Peterson: "I have not exactly been ignored, in fact I have been treated with much appreciation; but more often than not it feels like kindly condescension. Pastors tell me that they cannot make it with [such] an agenda.... People won't put up with it, congregations will not put up with it. Not long ago a pastor... told me that I was wasting my time on this, there was no challenge to it, it was about as exciting as standing around watching paint dry.

"I suggested to him that most of our ancestors in both Israel and church have spent most of their time watching the paint dry, *that the persevering, patient, unhurried work of growing up in Christ has occupied the center of the church's life for centuries*, and that this American can marginalization is, well, American. He dismissed me. He needed, he said, a challenge. I took it from his tone and manner that a challenge was by definition something that could be met and accomplished in forty days. That's all the time, after all, that it took Jesus."

(Practice Resurrection: A Conversation on Growing Up in Christ)