

THE
HOPE
YOU
NEED

2017

the year of

H·O·P·E

SUNDAYS

FEB 12 - APR 16

9 & 11 am



GROWING CLOSER TO GOD

Through the Resurrection

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh
Cedar Grove Church | April 16, 2017

LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE



WATCH FOR LEADER'S TIPS

REASONS TO HAVE HOPE

1. We have a Dad up in heaven who can be completely **TRUSTED**.
2. Because He's Holy.
3. He is building a Nation of people here on earth whose only rule or law is the commandment to **LOVE EACH OTHER**.
4. He **PROMISES** to meet every single one of our earthy needs, each and every day.
5. He forgives us instantly, completely, and repeatedly.
6. He will not **ALLOW US** to harbor resentment or hold grudges towards one another.

All this HOPE is based on only one thing:

The **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ!

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
1 Corinthians 15:13-17

Did the Apostle Paul **believe** in the Resurrection?

1. He **said** that He believed.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

2. Evidence from how **he lived**.

- a. He spent many of his last years in and out of **prison**.
- b. He had been arrested for what he **believed**.

“... I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead.” Acts 23:6

6 ... time for my departure is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:6-8

The point this, there is no event or happening that **authenticates** our FAITH more than the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

So now the question is, **DO YOU** believe that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead?

- Do you believe it enough to die for it?
- Start with a simple yes, no, or I don't know.

If you have not already **died**, it is not likely you would die under threat!

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. 26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? 27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done. Matthew 16:24-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Agree** or **Disagree** with this statement: If you have not already died, it is not likely you would die under threat! Why or Why not?
2. **Describe** what you think it might look like for someone to lose /give up their life?
3. **When it** comes to losing or giving up your life for Christ where are you at? L 1-2-3-4-5 H
4. **What do you think** Jesus meant when He said we have to take up our OWN CROSS and follow Him? What would our cross be?
5. **To what degree** would you say you have taken up your own cross? L 1-2-3-4-5 H
6. **What step or steps** could you take to lose a little more of your life or take up a little more of your own cross?

APPLICATION

STOP & PRAY | Close Out Conversation

Take some time to share one or two specific things Jesus has revealed to you, or changed in you these past 10 weeks.



Close by praying for the group.

NOTES

