

The Bridge Easter 2005

The Resurrection of Jesus Provides...

1. A Bridge

“...God is on one side and all the people are on the other side, and Christ Jesus... is between them to bring them together by giving His life for all mankind.” 1 Timothy 2:5 (LB)

2. A Bridge

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” John 11:25,26 (NIV)

“...It is true! Christ has been raised from the dead! He was the first One to be raised from the dead ...and all those who belong to Christ will be raised to new life.” 1 Cor. 15:20,22 (NLV)

“He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Rev. 21:4 (NIV)

3. A Bridge

“The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.’” Matthew 28:5,6 (NIV)

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear... Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’” John 20:19 (NIV)

“I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead!” Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day this week meditating on today’s topic...

This week’s memory verse:

“I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead!”

Ephesians 1:19-20 (NLT)

Monday

Look back over the notes from last weekend. Which of the *bridges* built by Jesus in His resurrection do you particularly sense a need for in your life right now?

What about the resurrection made a special impression on you this year?

What about the resurrection helps you face an uncertain future?

Thank God that the risen Christ is here with you now! Thank Him for His victory over death and sin and the hope it gives you for the future! If you never have before, take time right now to receive Christ’s forgiveness.

Tuesday

Read John 20:19-23. Why were the disciples afraid? Why do you suppose the doors were locked?

What fears do you struggle with:

___ The future	___ War/terrorism	___ Violence in our cities
___ My own sin	___ My children’s future	___ Death/illness
___ The economy	___ Job fears	___ Financial fears
___ Accidents	___ Other:	

Does the locked door in this passage deter Jesus?

In what ways does Jesus glide through locked doors in our world today?

What would Jesus say to you about your fears today? (Read Romans 8:38-39!)

Bring each of your fears to God right now in prayer. Ask to receive His peace!

Wednesday

Read John 20:24-29 and Luke 24:38-48. We all struggle with doubt at times; perhaps not doubt that Jesus rose from the dead, but doubt that He will be good to you, or that He can make a difference in your life. In what ways can you relate to Thomas?

What did you learn about Jesus’ response to doubt in these verses?

How does this help you in your struggle with doubt?

Honestly evaluate your doubts right now. What evidence has God given you that you sometimes choose to ignore?

Here are some books that have helped me with doubts:

- Philip Johnson, *Darwin On Trial* and *Reason in the Balance* (Johnson is a tenured law professor at Cal Berkeley and writes about the evidence for a creator)
- Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ* (Strobel is a Yale Law School grad and former prize-winning reporter for the Chicago Tribune who describes his own journey from atheism to faith in Christ. We have free copies of an abridged form of this book at the info desk!)

Thank God that He isn't threatened by your doubts! Thank Him for the truth of His word. Ask Him to help you see the evidence He puts around you to help you overcome your doubts.

Thursday

Read John 20:22. The resurrected Christ gave the apostles power. Paul says you and I have the same power too! Read Ephesians 1:18-20. What do you feel powerless over in your life?

How can God's power help in this situation?

If you really believed that you had the exact same power that raised Christ from the dead, what would you do that you have been hesitant to do?

Ask God to help you truly believe and understand that you are empowered by the Holy Spirit! Ask Him to help you to live a life worthy of His calling!

Friday

Read John 11:21-27. What do you say to Jesus' question: "Do you believe this?"

What difference has your faith in the resurrected Christ made in your life?

Thank God today specifically for the hope of the resurrection-- be specific about what it means to you! If you have never done it before, say "yes" to Christ's question in this passage: "Do you believe this?"

Saturday

Today, just meditate on God's goodness. Spend time quietly with the risen, living Christ! Please pray for the weekend services. Thanks!