

Friday

Read 1 Peter 1:16-19. What does Peter say about the source of his belief? Peter's life was changed by an encounter with the risen Jesus. Do you know someone who seems to have met Jesus supernaturally and is now living a changed life? Who? What are they like? What do changed lives prove?

Today, ask the Lord to renew your own enthusiasm for Jesus and the way He has changed your own life!

Saturday

Today please finish any meditations you might have missed, and please pray for the services this weekend. Ask the Lord to bring back to the church this weekend people who need to hear the message that God is true – and truly loves them! Thanks!!

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Bettye Smith – diagnosis unknown

Bobby Morrison – kidney surgery 3/28

Eugene Warren – diagnosis unknown

Frances Heisey – lung infection

Irvin Smith – long-term recovery from accident

Karla Bogard – many ups & downs healing from experimental cancer surgery

HOME WITH THE LORD

Please pray for Chuck and Lee Jilka in the sudden loss of their 31-year-old son, **Jeremy Jilka**. Pray also for his sister Laura Bonn and her family as they grieve this loss. Lee is a member of the TLC staff.

Please remember Bill Heiss and family, in the loss of his dear wife, **Gloria Heiss**, who suffered with cancer. A memorial will be held Thursday, April 19th, at 4pm.

Heartfelt prayer is extended to J.D. Devine and family in the recent passing of his father, **Dave Devine**.

Mark Cox asks for prayer for his mother, Barbara Chapman, as she struggles with her health and the recent loss of her mother.

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

WHY BELIEVE

“Why Believe in the Risen Jesus?”

April 7 & 8, 2007 • René Schlaepfer

Five reasons to believe:

1. Empty _____

“They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” Luke 24:2,3 (NIV)

2. Eyewitness _____

“Christ was buried and was raised to life on the third day... He appeared to Peter... to the Twelve... to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living... to James... and last of all He appeared to me also...” 1 Corinthians 15:6-8 (NIV)

3. Easter _____

“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” Luke 24:27 (NIV)

4. Emerging _____

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.” Acts 4:33 (NIV)

5. Evidence _____

*“Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the power of the Father, we can also **live a new life**.” Romans 6:4 (NCV)*

How does the risen Christ change my life?

• _____ for yesterday

“Jesus was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.” Romans 4:25 (NLT)

• _____ for today

“Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for.” 1 Peter 1:3-4 (Msg)

• _____ for tomorrow

*“Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. **He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.**’” John 11:25 (NIV)*

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life... **Do you believe this?**’” John 11:25,26 (NIV)*

“I do believe; help my unbelief!” Mark 9:24 (NASB)

A Life Changing Prayer

“Heavenly Father, I choose to believe Jesus died for my sins and was raised to life. I place my trust in Him as my Savior and my Lord. Help my unbelief. Help my eyes to be open to evidence that will grow my faith. May my own life show evidence of change as I receive your gift of forgiveness, purpose, and hope. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Coming Events

NEW SERIES STARTS TODAY:

WHY BELIEVE

Is your faith reasonable?
Or is it just a blind leap in the dark?
Wherever you are in your spiritual journey,
you'll discover reasons for faith in this new series!

Next Weekend: *Why Believe in the Jesus of the Bible?*

Did Jesus even exist? Are the New Testament gospels just second-century myths?
What about the other gospels not in the Bible?

In 2 Weeks: *Why Believe in God?*

Are there any real evidences for God? Is faith a delusion? Or even destructive?
What, if anything, can science bring to this debate?

April 28,29: *Why Believe in the Church?*

Isn't church history an unbroken record of oppression and murder?
What good is church anyway?

SPECIAL FEATURE OF "WHY BELIEVE"

BEN WITHERINGTON SPEAKS AT TWIN LAKES CHURCH *Monday April 16, 7:00 pm*

Dr. Ben Witherington III is Professor at Asbury Seminary and also teaches at Duke and Vanderbilt. One of the world's top Bible scholars, Witherington has written over thirty books, including *The Jesus Quest* and *The Paul Quest*. He's been seen on the History Channel, NBC, ABC, CBS, CNN, The Discovery Channel, and A&E. He'll be here live to discuss *The Da Vinci Code*, *The Judas Gospel*, *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*, and more.



NEW! SEEKER'S STUDY

Are you investigating the Christian faith? Join us in a safe setting where you can ask any question. Just come once and check it out. For more information stop by the information desk after each service or email Jim Josselyn at jim@tlc.org .

GREAT RESOURCES

Craig Evans, *Fabricating Jesus: How Modern Scholars Distort the Gospels*
Dr. Timothy Johnson, *Finding God in the Questions*
Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ*

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Monday

Read John 20:24-29 and Luke 24:38-48. 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?

Remember that next weekend we continue our series designed to help those who have had their doubts fueled by recent novels and films. 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.

Tuesday

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?"

Wednesday

Paul says you and I have the power of the risen Christ at work in our lives if we believe in Him! 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!

Thursday

Read Isaiah 53. On another page, list the prophecies in this chapter about Jesus. Why do you think God places prophecies like this in Scripture? How do these prophecies help you? Which of these prophecies means the most to you?

Today, thank God for His power demonstrated conclusively in passages like this – and rest in Him, because you have proof here that He knows all about tomorrow!



"Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.'"
John 11:25 (NIV)

over

