

Friday

Read Colossians 1:13-23. This is a remarkable passage about who Jesus is! Why do you think Paul took time to describe the characteristics of Jesus?

What does the work Christ has done on your behalf mean to you right now?

Spend some additional time in prayer today and meditate on this amazing description of Jesus. Pray that God will open the eyes of your heart and that you will grow in your faith and knowledge of Jesus. Pray that God will give you opportunities to share the hope you have found in Jesus.

Saturday

Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray that as you continue to grow in your understanding of your faith that you will fall more in love with Jesus.

Prayer Updates

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Ted Kitch – ICU, complications from cancer treatment
Vera Hetherington – heart problems
Bettye Smith – failing health
Barbara Miller (Kevin Miller's mother) – heart surgery 4/13
Helen Ellis – gall bladder surgery

Recent hospitalizations / surgeries: Bobby Morrison, Frances Heisey, Eugene Warren

HOME WITH THE LORD

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Martha Dudley and family in the loss of her dear husband, **Elwood Dudley**. "Ed" was a kind, gentlemanly man with a great smile who sold real estate and is now enjoying his "new home in heaven".

Please keep in prayer the family of **Jeremy Jilka** whose memorial service will be Tuesday, April 17, 4pm at Twin Lakes Church.

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 Jesus of the Bible?"

April 14 & 15, 2007 • Mark Spurlock

1. THE _____ OF JESUS.

"They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). And they crucified him." Mark 15:22, 24

"Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified." 1Corinthians 1:22-23

2. THE _____ OF JESUS.

"On the first day of the week... the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus... suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee..." Luke 24:1-6

3. THE _____ OF JESUS.

"Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, then know this... It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed'... When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Acts 4:8-10; 13

"I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up... I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it." Galatians 1:11-13
"But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man... They only heard the report: 'The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.' And they praised God because of me." Galatians 1:15-16; 23-24

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you... Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls." 1Peter 1:3-4; 8-9

Resources

Fabricating Jesus, Craig A. Evans

The Birth of Christianity: The First Twenty Years, Paul Barnett

What Have They Done With Jesus?: Beyond Strange Theories And History

– *Why We Can Trust The Bible*, Ben Witherington III

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.

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Monday: (Don't forget the Ben Witherington lecture tonight at 7pm!)

Read Acts 2:14-41. Write down two things you learned from last week's sermon.

1.

2.

What was most meaningful to you and why?

As you read the passage from Acts 2 what do you learn about the faith of the disciples?

Thank God today for the amazing transformation that He has made in your life. Pray that your heart will be soft to His ongoing work in your life. Ask God to give you the courage to share your faith like Peter did.

Tuesday

Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What do these verses tell you about who Jesus is?

What does it mean to you that Jesus has gone through the problems and temptations you face?

Tuesday (continued)

In what area of your life do you need to approach Jesus and ask for mercy and grace?

Thank God today for sending Jesus to live life on this planet. Thank Him for understanding your struggles and not leaving you alone. Talk to God about the struggles you are facing and ask for His peace and wisdom.

Wednesday

Read John 17:1-5. How do these verses describe Jesus? How is His deity emphasized?

How does Jesus describe His purpose on earth in these verses?

What do these verses teach about God's love for you? In what area of your life do you particularly need to sense God's love right now?

Thank God today for His love. Thank Him for the Bible and the opportunity you have to learn and grow from studying it. Ask God to grow your faith and understanding. Pray that you will be gracious when you talk about your faith and that your attitude will draw people to Jesus.

Thursday

Read Ephesians 2:6-22. What do these verses teach you about Christ's role in your salvation and life? How do you think that should impact your actions and thinking?

According to these verses, what is Christ's role in our relationships?

Write down at least one name of a fellow believer you are struggling to live in unity with. What do you learn in this passage that can encourage you in that relationship?

Thank God today for the eternal salvation you have in Jesus Christ. Thank Him for His immense mercy for you. Talk to God today about your relationships. Pray that you will reflect God's love to others and point them to Him. Pray that you will have the faith to live in unity.



Memory Verse

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve." 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

over

