

Navigator

Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Psalm 143:8b

His Resurrection, Our Hope!

Every person that studies theology must ask themselves the “so what?” question. When one learns a new truth about God and His ways and His world then we must ask “so what?” which forces us to connect theology to real life. Since truth is meant not just to be studied but to be lived, we must be able to show how and where truth intersects with the things that happen in our daily lives. We have to realize that theology affects all that we are and all that we do.

The New Testament helps us to answer the “so what?” question concerning the resurrection of Jesus. The Good News of the Gospel is 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” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Apart from the resurrection of Jesus the Gospel ceases to be Good News. There is no Gospel without the resurrection.

In 1 Corinthians 15:12-19 Paul plays the devil’s advocate in order for the Corinthians to see not only the truth of Jesus’ resurrection, but also the implications of denying His resurrection. In a barrage of “what ifs” Paul shows us seven major consequences that follow “if” Jesus was not raised from the dead. If there was no resurrection of Jesus then: our preaching is worthless (v. 14), our faith is worthless (v. 14), we are liars because we have declared the truth of the resurrection (v. 15), our faith is futile (v. 17), we are still in our sins (v. 17), those who have died in Christ have perished (v. 18), and we are of all the inhabitants of the earth the most pitiable (v. 19). Without the resurrection there is no hope for this life and surely no hope for the life to come.

Thankfully Paul does not leave us in hypothetical limbo for long. He continues by saying, “But now Christ is risen from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:20). That changes everything and helps us to answer the “so what?” question with three major consequences of the resurrection that affect our lives and eternity.

First, Jesus’ resurrection proves that He is really who He claimed to be: the Son of God. Romans 1:4 says that Jesus was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” While

Jesus lived on the earth He claimed to be equal with God and even said that He would be raised from the dead. These claims were either true or false. When God raised Jesus from the dead it was His declaration that Jesus truly was divine and that He was indeed the Son of God.

Second, Jesus’ resurrection shows that His sacrifice was acceptable and sufficient in the eyes of God. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 4:25, “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” Paul’s point is that Jesus was put to death because we had sinned and He was resurrected because we were justified. God had accepted the sacrifice of His perfect Son who died in our place for our sins. Speaking of Jesus the writer of Hebrews said, “But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God” (Hebrews 10:12). The risen Jesus sits down after His sacrifice showing that His work is complete, finished, and accepted. R. A. Torrey comments on this truth saying, “I look at the cross of Christ, and I know that atonement has been made for my sins; I look at the open sepulcher and the risen and ascended Lord, and I know the atonement has been accepted.”

Third, Jesus’ resurrection shows His victory over death and the grave. As Paul brings his chapter on Jesus’ resurrection and ours to a close he brings the resurrection truth to a crescendo by saying, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:54-57). In Jesus’ resurrection He conquered death and therefore gives believers hope for eternal life (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

So what does the resurrection mean for us today? It means that Jesus is Lord. It means that there is forgiveness of sins for those that trust in Jesus. It means that death is not the final word. And it means that if you are a follower of Jesus Christ that you have hope—hope because Jesus Christ is risen indeed!

† Pastor Matt



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Navigator PDF

To receive the newsletter as a PDF in email, please send a request to newsletter@nrfellowship.org and you will be added to the Navigator email list.

Children's Ministries

Helping Children Become God-Focused Believers Through Essential Christian Truth

Kids 4 Truth

What NorthRidge Kids are saying about Kids 4 Truth:

Emily Myhre- I like Pastor Matt's sermon and the games. It's good for kids to go to mostly because they learn about God and have fun while they are learning.

Chloe Cornwell- I like games and pastor Matt's preaching.

Shelby Myhre- I like to go because I like to learn about God and I'm trying to be a Christian and it helps me because it helps me to learn more about Jesus and it's fun for everyone.

Aaron Cornwell- I like the games. In my group I'm stuck with a bunch of girls. That's why I don't really like Kids 4 Truth. I also like how Pastor Matt teaches on the flat bed truck and jumps around on it.

Anna Bizik- Probably I like when Pastor Matt preaches, and I like the games a lot.

Abbie Kraft- Well, we do fun little worksheets and we play games and it's fun to hang out with friends at church. The people are nice!

Jason Montgomery- I like seeing all the people there and learning about the Bible and having fun. Kids should go so that they can learn more about the Bible and what it has to say.

Audrey Myhre- I like the games. I like learning about God and learning the Bible verses.

Children's Ministries: Kids 4 Truth Wednesday evenings, 6:15pm to 7:45pm
Sunday School 9:30am-10:20am ♦ **Bible Builders** During the 10:30 Worship Service

H₂O YOUTH MINISTRY



JOHN 4:13-14

It was awesome seeing the youth from NorthRidge along with the youth from Eastside Baptist Church in Twin Falls coming together to spend some of their Spring Break doing what the Lord has called us to do, and that is to serve. The Youth really did an awesome job of serving the community. They helped clean up the parking lot and painted the fire lanes at Summit Elementary here in Jerome. Some of them got carried away with their work (ask Alicia).

They also got to sweep the downtown sidewalks in Jerome. While they were sweeping they had people come up to them and ask them what they were doing and some of our youth got to tell them why they were there along with handing out a Gospel of John. This took place in the day and at night we met at Church where we ate awesome dinners, which were provided by some of the wonderful ladies of our Church. Thank you ladies for the great food!!!!

Then the youth participated in an event called "Follow Me" where they were challenged to follow Christ even when it isn't popular to do so. I think the youth enjoyed this time that they had serving and I'm looking forward to doing it again someday. I would also like to thank the sponsors and host families from Eastside and NorthRidge Fellowship, because without you this would have been a lot more difficult.

Thanks, Shannon Pharaoh



Meet Heather Harbaugh

Where were you born and raised?

I was born in Twin Falls and lived there up until I got married (about 4 years ago).

Who are (or have been) the most influential people in your life?

This was the hardest of all the questions because so many people have made their mark on my life for so many different reasons. I try to learn from everyone I meet and take from them a quality that I admire.

What is one of your favorite passages and/or books of the Bible?

I like Psalm 51. Even though it is David's prayer for forgiveness for committing adultery, it has great verses. He begs for forgiveness for his sins and promises to share the good word in return. As a recovering addict, with a fair share of my own iniquities, I can relate to the despair and joy in his pleas.

Aside from the Bible, what are your favorite books?

Anything by James Patterson... I'm a sucker for a drama.

If you were stranded on an island, what four foods would you most want to have?

Maxie's Pizza, Raisin Bran Crunch, taco salad, and TSE's Crab Rangoon. I'm pretty sure they are all gifts from God to help us cope with life.

Who in the Bible do you most identify with?

I haven't read enough to know too much, but I appreciate the Apostle Simon Peter. The fact that he believed in Jesus so much and still denied him to his face!- is amazing. Since it is easier to deny someone who isn't looking at you, it is incentive to make sure I don't do the same thing and a comfort when I do.

What are the four most interesting places you have been to?

Mount Rushmore, a friend's delivery room, a Dallas women's worship conference with thousands in attendance, and a cruise on a yacht.

How did you come to know Christ?

My faith in God started during step two of Narcotics Anonymous. Then I helped paint a church one afternoon on my second date with TJ. It filled a void in my heart like nothing else had and I haven't left since.



Books Worth Reading

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.
Romans 14:19

The Art of War, Sun Tzu

When one first looks at this book there is a little more here than greets the eyes. I know what you are asking. Why should I read a book about war? I am not in the military or police and who is Sun Tzu and why should I care? Are we talking about Chinese cooking? These are all good questions. Let's take them in order.

This book is not just about war; it is about understanding humans and how they reason. Yes, there are things that pertain only to war, but what is important is a fact most people don't realize—that we engage in a bloodless type of warfare every day. It is called business, sports, politics and any other of the varied form of human competition. We do not try to destroy our opponent but just win in whatever arena we are engaged. These are all forms of warfare and involve understanding people and the nature of life. What has always surprised me about the study of history is how much people are alike down through the ages. The same forces such as love, hate, pride, and vanity that motivated them motivate us. We, as a people in 2000 A.D., taking into account the cultural difference, are very much the same as we were in 3000 B.C. The technology changes; the people do not. So, if a Chinese fellow of 500 B.C. gives you insights about the nature of humans, it is a safe bet that they are just as true today as in his time. To illustrate a point, this text was commented on in a Sunday School class about the Full Armor of God in speaking about the nature of humans.

So, who is Sun Tzu? It is hotly debated among scholars if such a person even existed. But since most scholars will debate anything *ad nauseum*, no one should worry about them and their musings too much.

What we do know is that he lived about 500 B.C. and that his writings have become the foundation of Chinese military thought. United States Marine General Samuel B. Griffin has written a preface to one addition in which he said, "Sun Tzu's series of essays does not merit our attentive interest simply as antique curiosity. The Art of War is much more than that. It is a thoughtful and comprehensive work, distinguished by qualities of perception and imagination which for centuries have insured it a pre-eminent position in the Canon of Chinese military literature."

All I can say is, "Gee, I wish I had said that."

As to the question of why you should care about the book, the answer is found in the Apostle Paul's admonition to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15: "Show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Granted, it's not the Word of God, but there are many applicable truths worthy of study to be found in *The Art of War*.

Sorry, this book has nothing to do with Chinese cooking. One must look for a different source and there are many good books on the subject.

The book is available in several different editions and from most book stores. Of course, there is Amazon online. The most prominent edition is the one by General Griffith and there is one with a forward by Liddell Hart, noted English historian, and even one by the author James Cavell who wrote the book and the television mini series "Shogun." If you want to earn some intellectual bragging rights to impress your friends, give this book a try.

This is a good reason to have a cup of coffee at Barnes and Noble while you are looking for your own copy.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

9:30 a.m. Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship

Sunday Services

www.norridgefellowship.org
314 West Ave J
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Place
Stamp
Here

To The Ends of the Earth



Bondservants of Jesus Christ

It is interesting to notice how the writers of the New Testament refer to themselves in their letters. As the Apostle Paul begins his letter to the church in Rome he writes, “This letter is from Paul, Jesus Christ’s slave, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News” (Romans 1:1). James begins his letter by saying, “This letter is from James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ” (James 1:1). The Apostle Peter starts his second letter by writing, “This letter is from Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 1:1). And the first words of Jude’s letter read, “This letter is from Jude, a slave of Jesus Christ and a brother of James” (Jude 1:1). The one thing that they all have in common was that they consider themselves slaves of Jesus. Rather than refer to themselves as church planters or missionaries or leaders, or even referring to themselves exclusively as apostles, they choose to be known as slaves of Jesus.

Slavery was a reality in the first century Roman Empire. Estimates of slavery in that culture vary with some reporting slaves being in upwards of 50% of the population and some showing slaves making up 20% of the population. A realistic number is probably somewhere in between, but whichever figure is true it is more than apparent that slavery flourished in the first century.

While the tasks of slaves varied, one thing that all slaves had in common was that they were the property of someone else. Slaves were considered living tools with each one having an owner. A Roman could buy, rent, or sell a slave as he would any other piece of property. Paul had this truth in mind when he wrote, “Likewise he who is called while free is Christ’s slave. You were bought at a price” (1 Corinthians

7:22b-23a). Jesus, our Master, has paid for us with His life and we are now His possession.

The word “slave” or “bondservant” that is used in the passages above comes from the Greek word *doulos* (*dou/loi*) and is a word that means “pertaining to a state of being completely controlled by someone or something; to be subservient to someone else; one who gives himself up wholly to another’s will.” So as slaves of Jesus we are now to be completely controlled by and subservient to Him. As His followers we are to give ourselves up wholly to His will and live for Him and not for ourselves.

But a slave of Jesus lives not just to serve Jesus, but also to serve others. 1 Corinthians 9:19 says, “Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.” A Christian’s servitude to Jesus is lived out in the service of others. A person who is a slave of Jesus will follow the example of their Master who said, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Jesus “made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant” so that He could serve us by dying on the cross in our place and for our sins (Philippians 2:7-8).

Are you able to refer to yourself as many of the New Testament writers did: a slave of Jesus? Begin today to live life as a slave of Jesus Christ and experience the grace and love of the Master who says, “Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). Matt Boyd

Too much stuff? Clean it out!

Start your Spring cleaning
and bring your excess
belongings to the famous
NorthRidge Yard Sale.

APRIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN, come join the LEAD Bible Study every Wednesday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Wok and Grill in Twin Falls. The men are reading *Disciplines of a Godly Man* by Kent Hughes.

The Ladies regular craft night will be on Friday, April 3rd from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. We will also have an **extra VBS craft night on April 17th** starting at 6:00 p.m.

Be in prayer for Kevin and Gina Bickel as they leave Africa on **April 26th** and return to Jerome on **April 27th**. Pray that the Lord will provide for continued ministry among true believers in Diouloulou.

Contact Robert Kohler at 324-3545 or Candy Myhre at 644-6421 if you know of community service needs that NorthRidge can help with.

HEY KIDS! What Jewish holiday were Jesus and the disciples celebrating at the Lord's Supper? Tell Mrs. Brockway, and you will get a prize!

Writing the Word on Your Heart

I am often asked questions that relate to personal Bible reading and study as people want to get the most benefit out of their time in God's Word. Let me share with you a few thoughts about your personal time in the Bible that may be helpful.

First, use a translation that you are comfortable with. Different translations serve different purposes and you need to find one that is easy for you to understand, yet also maintains the accuracy of the Scriptures. With the abundance of English translations available today this task is not at all difficult.

Second, read for breadth. Expose yourself to the entire Bible so that you are able to see how all of God's Word fits together and is a unity. I highly recommend a Bible reading plan that allows you to read through the entire Bible in a year. This allows you to see the big picture of God's story of redemption as well as exposing you to books of the Bible that you may otherwise be tempted to neglect. There are many great Bible reading plans that do this (we put a reading plan in the bulletin each month) and there are even "One Year" Bibles that contain each day's reading. With as little time as fifteen minutes a day a person can easily read through the entire Bible in a year. When one reads for breadth they are getting the "lay of the land" and are not reading for great detail, but just to see the overall picture.

Third, read for depth. I know you are thinking, "Wait a minute, I thought you just said read for breadth!" True, but it is both/and, not either/or. Reading for depth is not just reading; it is study. There are several practices that will help us do this. One that has been very helpful to me over the years is to read the same book of the Bible every day for a month. A short book like Colossians or 2 Peter can easily be read in one sitting, while

longer books like one of the Gospels or Romans can be divided into smaller units. Reading the same book every day for a month allows you to become intimately familiar with the book. After reading it several times you will begin to see certain themes that emerge or certain key words and ideas that are repeated that you may want to study further. Writing key verses on index cards and taking them with you to work or sticking them in your pocket to reflect upon during the day is another good way to cement God's Word in your heart and mind.

Fourth, ask questions from the text that you are studying. As part of your reading for depth you want to encounter the text and think deeply through it. Asking questions helps us in this process. The following are some questions to consider as you study a passage:

What does this text tell me about God and what God is like?

What does this text tell me about what God has done in history?

What does this text tell me about what God has done for me?

What does this text tell me about myself and what I am like?

Does this text contain a promise from God? If so, what is it? Is the promise conditional or unconditional?

Does this text reveal something I should praise or thank God for? If so, what is it?

Does this text reveal something that I should pray about for myself or for others? If so, what is it?

Does this text reveal something that I should have a new attitude about? If so, what is it?

Does this text reveal something I should do for the sake of Christ, others, or myself? If so, what is it?

Does this text reveal a sin in my life that I need to repent of? If so, what is it?

What am I going to do in response to this text from God's Word?

These questions, and others like them, will help us not only to understand the text, but more importantly to apply it.

Above all else, just make time for the Word of God. Identify the things that steal time from your life and prevent you from spending more time with God in His Word and eradicate them.

While these thoughts by no means exhaust the many ways you can read and study the Bible, some of them may be of genuine use to you. Grab your Bible, find a quiet place, and taste and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8)!

Matt Boyd

Join a Sunday Morning Bible Study!

Acts
Travis Flick

The Exemplary Husband
Chris Myhre

The Excellent Wife
Candy Myhre

Bible Studies Begin at 9:30 am