

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Chapter 9 – The Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Chapter Summary

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ forms the essential climax of redemptive history. As such, it is absolutely necessary that we have a scriptural grasp of the historical and theological significance of those events. Otherwise, we will never be effective evangelists for Christ.

A. Discussion Starters

1. Do you remember when you first read or heard about the death and resurrection of Christ? Were you skeptical about their validity or unclear about their true significance? Recall your thoughts and reactions then.
2. Do you believe that contemporary people still have a good sense of history? Do our schools accurately and thoroughly teach history? Discuss which major events, concepts, and persons must be included in a good history curriculum or textbook.

C. Current Application

Read the complete account of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection in each of the four Gospels. Use a harmony of the Gospels if you have one. Compare and contrast the contents of each account. Based on that study, write your own summary or outline that incorporates all the details into one account. Use this as an aid in remembering all the key facts of the crucifixion and resurrection as a tool for sharing at greater length with someone who does not know Christ.

Focus Passage – 1 Cor. 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2** by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. **3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

B. Going Deeper

1. What did the OT sacrificial system say about the importance of shed blood, what future event did it depict? P.116
2. What was the theological meaning of God's temporary separation from Christ during the crucifixion? What was it analogous to in the realm of human relationships? P.119
3. What was the function of the temple veil? What was so significant about God's tearing it into two at Christ's death? P. 121
4. What would be some of the consequences for Christianity if Jesus' resurrection were not historically true? P.123
5. What three important changes did the resurrection work in Paul's life? P.129
6. What was the early church's common message? How consistently was it in the center of preaching then? Preaching now? P. 130

(More discussion questions on p. 185-186)

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Chapter 10 - The Great Commission

Chapter Summary

The church's supreme mission on earth is embodied in the Great Commission, Christ's call for the disciples to evangelize the nations. And we too are called to fulfill that mandate and bring men and women to Jesus Christ.

A. Discussion Starters

1. Have you ever joined the ranks of those people who sometimes or always work from home (the so-called telecommuter)? Do you ever have days at work that you feel could have been more productive at home? What projects are more effectively done at your home office? Why is that true?
2. Many of us hold on to material possessions we no longer need or seldom use. Does your garage, attic, or storage room contain such items right now? What two or three things do you most need to discard?

C. Current Application

Memorize one or more of the following verses: Matthew 28:19-20; John 15:15; Acts 20:27; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9

Focus Passage – Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

B. Going Deeper

1. What are the main responses typical Christians give when asked what the primary purpose of the church is? P.134-35
2. List four qualities of a good fisherman that also help make a good evangelist. P. 137
3. How many of Jesus' followers, including the apostles, were likely present when He gave the Great Commission (1 Cor 15:6)? What would that suggest about the nature of its applicability? P.139
4. What is the true essence of worship as displayed by the group of disciples? P.140
5. What elements does Christ's absolute authority compromise? Why was it necessary for Him to establish it prior to issuing the Great Commission? P. 140
6. What term did Christ use as the central command for the Commission? What is its root meaning? P. 141
7. How did Christ's baptism differ from John the Baptist's? p.142

(More discussion questions on p. 188)