

**Crossville Church  
of Christ**  
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# COMPASS

**Using God's Word to Chart The Course  
Of A Congregation**

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**Elders:**

Frank Bohannon  
Jonathan Loveday  
Larry McDuffee  
Brian McLaughlin  
Jon Tatum

**Deacons:**

Jim Bell  
Charles Evans  
Kyle Fairman  
Dale Hennessee  
Mike Isaacson  
David Kerley  
Doug Loveday  
Greg Maxwell  
Don Napier  
Tom Parham  
Mark Roberts  
Roger Smith  
Jason Wyatt  
Jerry Wood

**Ministers:**

Barry Kennedy  
Ken Mears

**Missionaries:** (India)

Don Iverson  
Jim Waldron

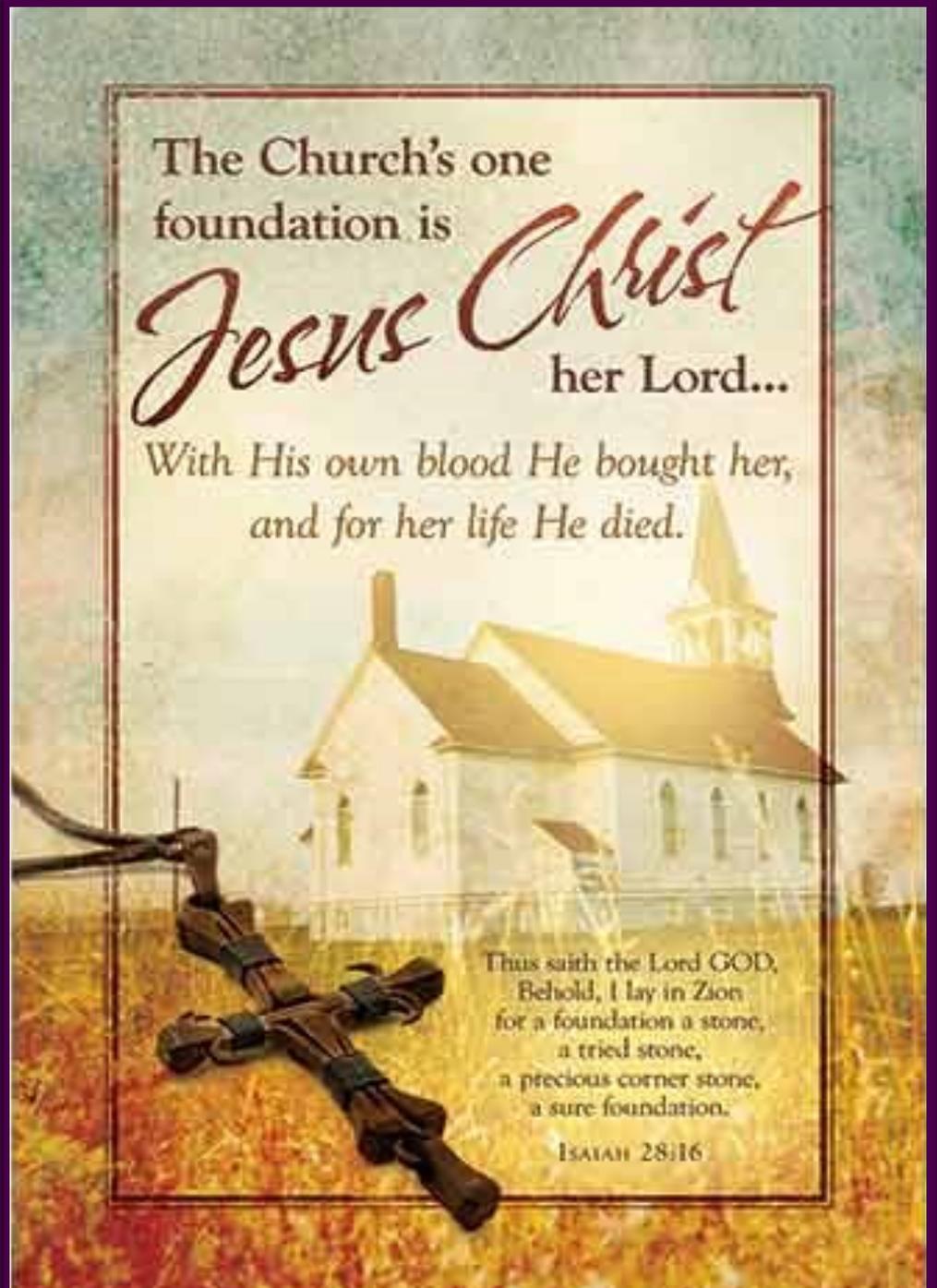
**Service Times**

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:**

<b>Ladies Bible Class</b>	
Tuesdays	11AM
<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	
Tuesdays	10 AM
<b>Joyful Generation</b>	
<b>(Youth Devotional &amp; fellowship)</b>	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

April 16, 2017



# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

By Wayne Jackson

Each spring, millions of people around the world acknowledge, in some fashion or another, that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead some twenty centuries ago. Modern society calls it "Easter." The origin of this term is uncertain, though it is commonly thought to derive from Eastre, the name of a Teutonic spring goddess. The term "Easter," in the King James Version of the Bible (Acts 12:4), is a mistranslation. The Greek word is pascha, correctly rendered "Passover" in later translations. In fact, though pascha is found twenty-nine times in the Greek New Testament, it is only rendered "Easter" once, even in the KJV.

Christians are not authorized to celebrate Easter as a special annual event acknowledging the resurrection of Christ. Faithful children of God reflect upon the Savior's resurrection every Sunday (the resurrection day – cf. John 20:1ff) as they gather to worship God in the regular assembly of the church (cf. Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2).

We ought to be glad, however, that multitudes—usually caught up in pursuits wholly materialistic—will take at least some time for reflection upon the event of the Savior's resurrection. It is entirely appropriate that Christians take advantage of this circumstance; we should be both willing and able to explain to our friends—at least those who have some reverence for Christianity—the significance of the Lord's resurrection.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the foundation of the Christian system (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:14ff). If there was no resurrection, Christianity is a hoax, and we are wasting our time. But the truth is, the event of Jesus' resurrection is incontrovertible. Professor Thomas Arnold of Rugby, a world-renowned historian, once said that Christ's resurrection from the dead is the "best-attested fact in human history" (1939, 2569). This being the case, just what is the significance of Jesus' resurrection? Think about these matters.

First, the resurrection is one of the major evidences that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Paul affirmed that Christ is "declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

Second, Jesus' resurrection represents an assurance that we can have forgiveness from our sins. Paul contended: "[I]f Christ hath not been raised, our faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). The reverse of the apostle's affirmation would be this: if Jesus was raised, sins will be forgiven when we obey the gospel (Acts 2:38; 22:16).

Third, the resurrection tells the world that the kingdom of God is ruled by a living sovereign. The founder of Islam is dead and his bones lie dormant in the earth. But the founder of Christianity—sixty years after his death—appeared to John on the island of Patmos and said: "I am the first and the last, and the Living one; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore" (Revelation 1:17-18).

Fourth, Jesus' resurrection proves that physical death is not the termination of human existence. God, who is the giver of life (1 Timothy 6:13), has the power to reanimate the human body. Christ's triumph over the grave is Heaven's pledge to us that we too shall be raised. This is why Jesus is referred to as the "firstfruits of them that are asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20,23).

Fifth, the Lord's resurrection previewed the ultimate victory of Christianity over all its enemies. In the book of Revelation, Jesus is depicted as a lamb that had been slain, but was standing again (5:6). This same Lord was "the lion of the tribe of Judah" that had overcome his foes (5:5). Christians too will overcome as a result of the Lamb's sacrifice and victory over death (cf. Revelation 12:11). The resurrection of the Son of God should be a constant reminder to us of these wonderful biblical truths. We honor our Master's victory over death—not once a year, but every week!

## **ONE DEAD**

### **By Corey Sawyers**

Woody Allen said, "I am not afraid of death, I just don't want to be there when it happens." We all fear death to varying degrees. Yet we all must face death if Jesus's return is delayed. The next of the miracles found in Matthew 8-9 concerns one who was dead.

In Matthew 9:18-19 and 9:23-26, we read a synagogue official came to Jesus because his daughter had died. He says to Jesus, "(But) come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live." This was a powerful and influential man who comes and worships Jesus. He believes Jesus has the power to raise the dead. Jesus and His disciples follow him. When Jesus arrived at the official's house, they found professional mourners. They began to mock Jesus because they knew she was dead (that is why they laugh at Jesus).

Matthew 9:25 says Jesus "entered and took her by the hand, and the girl got up." It was just that easy. Wouldn't you love to have been there when Jesus walks out of the house with the girl to see the look on the faces of those who thought there was nothing that could be done for the girl who was dead? This news spread throughout all that land. Miracles are one thing, but raising the dead is, of course, a whole new category.

I Corinthians 15:55-57 says, "but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory (over death) through our Lord Jesus Christ." Only Jesus has power over death. Only in Him can we face death with certainty.

## **WHY WE LOVE THE LORD**

### **By Barry Kennedy**

Today is a day that the world has set aside time to remember the risen Savior. Not to be nitpicky, but the question must be asked, "Why only once a year?" For many, today is one of the only days that they will darken the door of a church building. Mostly to be with their families, but not really to show a devotion to God. Worship, though commanded (Hebrews 10:24-26), is a privilege. Worship, like all commands will only be kept by those who love the Lord (John 14:15). In fact, if we truly love the Lord, there is nothing and no one who can keep us from wanting to be with Him. But why do we love the Lord?

There are so many reasons why we should love the Lord, but the best answer comes from the Bible. "We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). You see, love is reciprocal, i.e. you give it to get it. Anyone who does not think that God loves him, only proves that they do not know God. Many years ago a preacher living in England preached an early sermon from John 3:16. The story is told that the preacher, after announcing the text, said, "There are two striking things in my text: When God loves, He loves a world. When He gives, He gives His Son." Such is the boundless love of the eternal Father of mankind. Even having a vague understanding of that famous text should have a profound drawing on even the hardest hearts.

How do we know that God first loved us? This is a good question. There are many who have read the Bible, but they seem to only see the restrictions, (i.e. thou shalt and thou shalt not). Often, this focus causes them not to see the why. Think of it this way, if you were brought up in a loving home, odds are one of the first things you learned was "no." Why? Because your parents loved you enough to try and protect you from harm. That is the same reason God says "no" to His children. Sin is going against the word of God (1 John 3:4), and when one sins he earns death (Romans 6:23). Therefore, when God tells us not to do something or to do something He is saying, "I love you and truly have your best interests in mind.

Now that we know how much God loves us, we know why we love the Lord.