

TENSIONS

WEEK 6

DAY 1: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:12-19 & GENESIS 2:16-17

Be encouraged. Just as God raised Christ from the dead, we, too, get to share in that hope because of Christ's blood. Paul emphasizes the connection between the physical resurrection of Jesus and our hope of a bodily resurrection when He returns. God spoke physical creation into existence and called it good. Jesus' death is not considered victory simply because He escaped the physical confines of His body on earth. His physical death and physical resurrection mean physical payment for our sins. Even though we may not understand the many mysteries of God or hard truths of scripture, we must not subjugate God or His word beneath within the confines of our imperfect instincts, tastes or logic. What is the resurrection to you?

DAY 2: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 5:20-24, ROMANS 5:12-21 & GENESIS 3:17-19

God leaves no loose ends. Through God's resurrection of Jesus, the sin and resulting death introduced into the world through Adam and Eve is corrected. How is resurrection different than any other common cultural understanding of death or the "afterlife?" How do you think of death? Is your understanding influenced by cultural perception or does it line up with what Paul and the greater context of scripture is emphasizing?

DAY 3: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22-28, REVELATION 1:4-18 & REVELATION 21:1-8

Our God reigns supreme. He has no rival, no predecessor and no replacement. Everything exists because He holds it together. When Christ returns, He will trample every lawless, wicked authority, every sinful institution. Jesus' resurrection was the first attack on the final enemy: death. As a result of sin, death is our enemy. When we are resurrected, Jesus will have subjected every enemy beneath His pierced feet. No matter what tensions you're living in today or expecting in the future, choose to remember that God is triumphant, supreme and in Christ, we have hope in His victory.

TENSIONS
A LENTEN STUDY THROUGH 1 CORINTHIANS

DAY 4: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:29-34

If there is no bodily resurrection after Christ, what's the point? Why do Christ-followers endure martyrdom and hardship in life if there is no hope in Christ's return? We have been assured of Christ's return and, with Him, our resurrection to life. Having this confidence and assurance, let's let our lives testify to this hope. How does your current behavior showcase your belief or disbelief in Christ's promise? Do you find yourself embodying the motto: "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die?"

DAY 5: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-51 & ISAIAH 55 (ESPECIALLY VERSES 8-13)

We all go through times of doubt where we wrestle with the harder questions in our faith relationship with Christ. We get hung up on the mysteries of God instead of delighting in the truth of what He's shown us: that He loves us and, through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, is rescuing us. Choose today to trust in the mysterious promises of God; just as His faithfulness, righteousness and compassion saturates His creation. We might not understand it, but He's promised us life and His word does not return void.

DAY 6: READ HEBREWS 13

Today, let's pray to God and ask Him to equip us with every good thing from Him to do His will and share His hope to others. In Jesus, we have the promise of an eternal covenant with God. Let's lean boldly into this promise when we ask Him. As we pray today, let's ask because we want to see God glorified and pleased. Let's ask for discernment to refute false teaching and courage to endure tension and trials. Whether we're married or not, let's pray for all those around us who are married, for protection, discernment and unity in Christ, through which all things are sustained. Pray for those not yet married, for those never to marry and for the widows. God is faithful to care.

DAY 7: READ 1 CORINTHIANS 15:52-58 & 1 THESSALONIANS 5

No matter the cost or the tension it brings us, let's prioritize the mission Jesus gave us. He is returning and even though we don't know when, we know it's soon and there are still so many people who need to know the hope, love, life and resurrection we have in Jesus. Who can you share the good news of Jesus with today? Seek out opportunities today. Ask the Lord to clearly reveal opportunities for you to speak and demonstrate the truth of Jesus to others. Be willing to do it, even if you don't get a bright, flashing sign telling you when, who or where.