

## Study #3: Compelled by Love (The Cross) and Inspired by Hope (The Resurrection)

In this study we will examine God's amazing demonstration of love for us through the Cross of Christ and the Hope He offers us through the Resurrection.

**\*Review:** How are you feeling about your walk with God? Any questions from the Gospel study? Is there anything we can be praying about for each other?

### 1– The Passion Account:

- A- Matt. 26: 26-30. Jesus announces the pouring out of his life for the forgiveness of sins.
- B– Matt. 26: 31-35. Jesus knew his disciples would flee.
- C- Matt. 26: 36-45. Jesus works through temptation. Resolves to endure the Cross for the joy set before him. (Heb. 12:2).
- D- Matt. 26: 47– 55. Jesus is betrayed by a close friend. Jesus chose the cross– could choose another path if he wanted to. His love for God and his love for us compelled him to continue. (John 10:18)
- E– Matt. 26: 57– 67. Jesus testifies that he is the Messiah to the Sanhedrin. (Daniel 7: 13-14. The Son of Man enthroned by God as he comes to God on the clouds of Heaven). Physical torture and humiliation begin.
- F- Matt. 26: 69-75. Jesus is strongly disowned by Peter.
- G– Matt. 27: 11-26. An innocent Jesus is condemned. Flogging.
- H– Matt. 27: 27-31. Jesus endures ridicule and physical abuse.
- I- Matt. 27: 32– 44. Jesus is crucified, mocked.
- J- Matt. 27: 45– 56. Jesus cries out to God in agony, feeling abandoned as he takes on the sins of the world. (Jesus' final words: Luke 23: 46 "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.")
- K- **Application:** As you reflect on Jesus' death for you, what is taking place in your heart as you contemplate this sacrificial act for your salvation?

**Read Romans 8: 31-32** How do you feel knowing God is for you and did not spare his Son for you?

**Read 2 Cor. 5: 14-15.** Do you feel compelled by Jesus' love for you to live for him? Why or why not?

(further study) Read 1 Peter 1:8 Do you feel love for Jesus and inexpressible joy? Why or why not? Consider writing out some feelings (journaling) about what Jesus did for you.

## **2– The Resurrection Account: Luke 23: 50– Luke 24: 53**

A– Luke 23: 50– 56. Jesus laid in the tomb.

B– Luke 24: 1-11. Angels proclaim the risen Christ.

C– Luke 24: 13– 34. Jesus appears to two disciples.

D– Luke 24: 36-45. Jesus appears to all disciples.

E– Luke 24: 50-53. Jesus’ ascension.

### **F. Applications:**

1. **Read John 6: 39-40 and Romans 10: 8-10.** Faith that God raised Jesus from the dead, and faith that Jesus is Lord are central to salvation. Jesus will raise us from the dead!

2. **Heb. 2:15.** The Resurrection frees us from our fear of death.

3. **Eph. 1: 18-20.** Christians are indwelt with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead! Are you living in resurrection power?

4. Do you believe Jesus rose from the dead? Why or why not?

5. Homework: Read the Resurrection accounts from all four gospels to strengthen (or to develop) your conviction that Jesus was raised from the dead (*Rom. 10:17*).

### **G. (For Further Study):**

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 (a prophecy of Isaiah about Jesus’ death written 700 years before it happened)

Romans 3:22-26 (We receive Christ’s sacrifice of atonement by faith)

I Corinthians 1:18 (The reality of the Cross is spiritually powerful!)

I Peter 2:21-25 (Christians “go the way of the Cross”- imitating Jesus in daily life)

**Prayer:** God, you richly love us! Thank you for demonstrating your love by dying on the Cross for me. Thank you for demonstrating your power over death and sin by resurrecting, and promising me your power and presence to live the Christian life!