

April 19/20, 2025  
"Easter"  
Pastor Aaron Buer



## **SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.**

### **2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths**

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

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## Day 1 [1 Corinthians 15:1-27](#) | Easter Shapes Our Past, Present and Future

**For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: 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

After spending a year and a half in Corinth, Paul writes a series of letters to this new Jesus community to help them on their journey of following Jesus. Paul wants to help these struggling believers understand the fundamentals of the faith and how such truths should affect their lives. At the heart of Paul's teaching is the truth of the resurrection. Paul writes that the resurrection is of "first importance." It is a truth that should affect how these believers think about their past, present and future.

What was true for the believers in Corinth is certainly true for us. The resurrection is central to our faith. Paul said that if the resurrection did not happen, our faith would be useless ([1 Corinthians 15:14,17](#)). No resurrection means no faith and no hope. Because of Jesus's resurrection, we can know our past sins are forgiven. Because Jesus rose, we can trust that his power is enough to transform our lives here and now. Because of Jesus's resurrection, we can be assured of our own resurrection in the future. In short, the resurrection provides freedom from our sinful past, hope for our future and power for our present.

**TODAY:** Thank God for the reality and power of the resurrection and the hope and confidence it brings. "Father, thank you for Easter and the hope Jesus's resurrection provides. I praise you that one day, because of Jesus, my body will be resurrected and that until then, there is power for each day."

## Day 2 [1 Corinthians 15:1-19](#) | Easter and Our Past

**And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 1 Corinthians 15:14**

Paul wants the church in Corinth to grasp three truths deeply: Jesus died, was buried and raised from the dead. These truths are the heart of the gospel. Paul reminds these believers that if the tomb was not empty, then the Christian faith is empty. No resurrection means no faith. These new believers needed to know that the resurrection really happened, as evidenced by the many witnesses of the risen Christ.

We, too, can truly know that Jesus rose from the dead. People saw, talked with, and touched the risen Christ. He truly is alive! And we can have confidence and hope that we serve a risen Savior today. The Christian faith is not about following Jesus because he was a good teacher or moral example (though he is both). We follow Jesus because he is the risen and victorious Savior who conquered sin and death. These are not "I think so" sort of truths. These are "I know so" realities. Jesus lives. Because he lives, we can experience forgiveness and eternal life.

**TODAY:** Scripture teaches that if we believe in the Lord Jesus, we will be saved ([Acts 16:31](#)). Have you taken that step of faith? If not, today is a great day to turn away from sin and trust in Christ for new, resurrection life. Consider praying like this: "Father, I am a sinner in need of your mercy. I trust that Jesus paid for my sins on the cross and accomplished my salvation through his resurrection from the dead. Please forgive me of my sin and grant me new, eternal life."

## Day 3 [1 Corinthians 15:51-57](#) | Easter and Our Future

**When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"** 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

God commanded the Israelites to offer their firstfruits to him—a portion of the initial crop produced for that season ([Deuteronomy 26:2,10](#)). Paul uses this language to describe Jesus's resurrection. His resurrection is the firstfruits, or a preview, of what is coming. Because Jesus rose from the dead, his followers will also be raised to new, resurrected life. Followers of Jesus will be changed and "clothed with the imperishable," so God's people will be raised to new life, never to die again.

The resurrection gives us hope and comfort regarding our future. Death is not the last word. We may suffer pain, disease and death in this life. However, because of Jesus's resurrection, we know the story is not over. The resurrection is our antidote to both fear and overwhelming grief. Because Jesus conquered death, we don't have to fear death. There is life after the grave. Because Jesus rose, we can grieve but not like those who have no hope ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)). Since there is life after the grave, we rest in Jesus's finished work while we wait to be reunited with loved ones in the Lord who have passed away.

**TODAY:** Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[The Finished Work of Christ](#)." As you worship, consider these lines: "You came out of the grave, You came bursting to life, You shattered the darkness with Your glorious light."

## Day 4 [1 Corinthians 15:3-11](#) | Easter and Our Present

**Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.** 1 Corinthians 15:7-8

If there was anyone dead set on stopping the Jesus movement, it was Paul (Saul) of Tarsus. Paul was a vehement hater of Christians and stopped at nothing to squash their growing movement. That is until Paul encounters the resurrected Christ in [Acts 9](#). Jesus reveals himself to Paul, and Paul's life is never the same. Paul transforms from a passionate persecutor of the church ready to kill Christians to an enthusiastic witness ready to give his life in service to Christ. The resurrection was at the heart of Paul's transformation.

The sort of change that took place in Paul's life is the type of change God wants to do in our hearts. Just as Jesus radically transformed Paul's heart and habits, so Jesus can do the same in our lives. Granted, though Paul was saved and radically transformed in an instant, the formation of his character was also an ongoing process that took time and discipline. The same will be true for us. Like Paul, we must learn to apply the truths of the gospel to daily life and discipline ourselves for godliness. Jesus has accomplished everything we need for our salvation and growth in godliness. We must now learn to trust him daily and walk in his ways.

**TODAY:** Consider someone you could invite to church for our upcoming series, "You Asked for It." In the opening message, Pastor Aaron Buer will tackle the question, "How do I overcome a habitual sin?" Plan to join us as we engage this important topic. Find service times and locations [HERE](#).



## Day 5 [Genesis 2:18-25](#) | Question 15: God Creates People

**Question:** How did God create men and women?

**Answer:** God created men and women equally in his image, with distinct and complementary roles.

**The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."** Genesis 2:23-24

This intimate account of Eve's creation reveals profound truths about God's design for men and women. God declares it "not good" for Adam to be alone. God doesn't simply duplicate Adam but creates Eve as his perfect counterpart. He forms her from Adam's side, suggesting both equality (the same substance) and distinction (a different person). Adam's joyful response expresses recognition of their shared humanity and essential unity. The text establishes both the equality and complementarity woven into God's design. Both male and female are equally created "in the likeness of God" and jointly blessed ([Genesis 1:27-28](#)). Yet within this equality, God creates them with distinct roles that complement each other, providing the foundation for the marriage relationship where two become "one flesh" ([Genesis 2:24](#)).

This beautiful design speaks powerfully to how we understand gender and relationships today. Men and women, while equal in worth, dignity and status as image-bearers ([Genesis 1:27-28](#)), are created with differences that allow them to complement one another. Throughout Scripture, the Trinity models equal persons filling different roles in pure love and unity. God's design for male and female reflects a complementary partnership rather than competition. Understanding God's original design helps us appreciate the distinct contributions of men and women in family, church and society.

**TODAY:** Reflect on how you understand gender. Thank God for creating both men and women in his image with equal worth and dignity. Consider how you might better honor and respect the opposite gender, recognizing their equal value while appreciating God-given differences. If you're married, ask for God's help to honor him and your spouse by reflecting God's design for complementary partnership. Learn more about being created as male and female in our We Believe document [HERE](#).