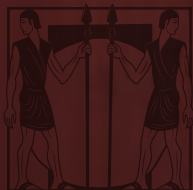




# PASSION WEEK DEVOTIONAL



A day-by-day walk  
through the final  
week of Jesus' life

(Easy-to-read version)



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## **A WORD FROM THE ELDERS OF HOPE CHURCH**

“Passion Week” is the most important week in all of history. The word “passion” comes from a Latin word that means “suffering.” So, Passion Week is all about the great suffering and deep love of Jesus Christ in the last week of his life.

Some of us have known Jesus for many years, and we know something about Easter. Others have come to Jesus not long ago. Maybe this is your very first Easter as a believer. Or maybe you are still looking for hope, peace and love.

No matter where you are, we are praying for a fresh look at Jesus and all He has done for us. Please join us each day, as we fast and think together about the truths of Passion Week.

We pray that the Lord, by His Spirit, will use this little book to shape our thinking, grow our love, and move us to deep worship.

You are loved,

- The Elders of Hope Church Toronto West

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET

We're looking forward to celebrating Passion Week together as a church. We want to spend time fasting and thinking about God's Word together. This booklet will guide us through some of the important events of Jesus' last week on earth, and we will think about what they mean for us today.

We suggest you plan some time alone, or with your family, to use this booklet. That might be your lunch hour, or maybe early in the morning. Whatever works for you, put it in your calendar and keep that date.

Each reading is written by one of our staff or elders, and it has four parts:

- **Scripture** - on the left page you will find the Bible reading for the day.
- **Notes** - under the Bible reading, there is space to write some notes or thoughts.
- **Questions to think about** - what does the Bible reading and the devotional mean for your own life?
- **Pray** - this can help you respond to what God is saying to you through His Word.



### Using the QR Codes

At the bottom of each devotional you'll see a square QR code. These link to helpful short videos from Crossway Publishers of solid Bible teachers who explain a little more about the events of that particular day of Passion Week.

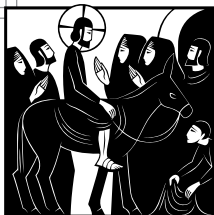
**For iPhone** - simply open your camera app and point it at the QR code square. When the notification pops up, click it.

**For Android** - open your camera app and select Google Lens and point it at the QR square. When the notification pops up, click it.

### TRY IT OUT! >>>

Try scanning this QR Code to read a short article on fasting for beginners from Desiring God.





## Luke 19:37-42

### *Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King*

<sup>36</sup> As he rode along, the crowds spread out their garments on the road ahead of him. <sup>37</sup> When he reached the place where the road started down

the Mount of Olives, all of his followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.

<sup>38</sup> “Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in highest heaven!”

<sup>39</sup> But some of the Pharisees among the crowd said, “Teacher, rebuke your followers for saying things like that!”

<sup>40</sup> He replied, “If they kept quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!”

**Notes** | Use this space to write your notes & reflections

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# Christ has come to bring us peace

by Daniel Manickam



## DEVOTIONAL

**Sunday**

Here we are on Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week. Palm Sunday is the beginning of the path to Jesus' death – the plan to sell him out and kill him, his unfair trial and his death. But today, we don't hear the crowds cry out "Crucify him! Crucify him!" No – today they shout "Crown him! Crown him!" Jesus was the King they were waiting for. At last he had come to Jerusalem to bring them peace.

But the peace Jesus came to give wasn't the peace they wanted. The cheering crowds wanted political peace. This Jesus had healed the blind, raised the dead, and chased away demons. Surely he could lead them in their holy war against their Roman rulers.

But these people had a much bigger problem. They were at war with a holy God! The greatest danger to their peace was not their human enemies, but the enemy of sin. What does sin look like? Not obeying God is sin. Loving myself more than God is also sin. Their sin made them enemies of God! What they needed most – and what we need most – is peace with God.

Jesus came to give them this peace, but they didn't want to see it. If Jesus didn't give them the kind of peace they wanted, then they didn't want him to be their King. But Jesus still came to bring peace. He knew that he would suffer and die. It was their sin and our sin that brought Jesus to Jerusalem. And it was for their peace and our peace that Jesus said "Yes" to the cross. Jesus came to bring us true peace. He weeps to see we do not have peace. Soon he will die on the cross to bring us peace with God.



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What peace are you looking for today? How is the peace that Jesus offers far better than any other peace?



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you came to bring us peace. You suffered and died so that we could have peace with God. Forgive us when we are not thankful for your peace. Help us to see that peace with God is what we need the most. Amen.



## Matthew 21:12-16

### *Jesus Cleanses the Temple*

<sup>12</sup> Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “The Scriptures declare, ‘My Temple will be called a house of prayer,’ but you have turned it into a den of thieves!”

<sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, “Praise God for the Son of David.”

But the leaders were indignant. <sup>16</sup> They asked Jesus, “Do you hear what these children are saying?”

“Yes,” Jesus replied. “Haven’t you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, ‘You have taught children and infants to give you praise.’”

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# The Washing We Need

by Jason Matta



## DEVOTIONAL

Monday

After Jesus entered Jerusalem, everyone was watching him. What would he do next? How would he begin to set up his Kingdom in Jerusalem? No one expected what happened next. On Monday Jesus cleared out the Jewish temple.

Jesus boldly came into the temple and began turning over tables! You may think “That doesn’t seem like Jesus!” But Jesus was angry about what people were doing there. You see, the temple was the place to worship God. Over time it became a place for buying and selling and making money. Men were asking high prices for the animals used for sacrifice, and they were cheating the buyers. Worship in the temple became a way to get lots of money! Of course Jesus was upset! He stormed into the temple not only to judge this awful sin, but also to show that he was the answer.

In the Old Testament, the presence of God was in the temple. When Jesus entered the temple in Jerusalem, a new thing happened. God’s presence was no longer tied to one place or building. Jesus was God’s presence in human form. Not only that, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for sin. And he was the perfect priest to go between God and man.

D.A. Carson wrote, “The temple teaches us that the only way for sinful humans to come to God is through the door that God has made, by the sacrifices that God has commanded, and by the blood that God has chosen.”

The cleaning out of the temple pointed to a greater washing – the washing we all need. With all his heart, Jesus cleaned out the temple on Monday. In the same way he will soon go to the cross to give a greater washing – the washing of our hearts.



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Do you ever feel too dirty to come to God? Do you need a fresh start today? What stops you from coming to Jesus for washing today?



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I worship you for your sacrifice. Please forgive me for the many sins that have made my heart dirty and taken away peace. I am coming to you now. Please wash my heart today. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



## Matthew 21:23-27

### *The Authority of Jesus Challenged*

<sup>23</sup>When Jesus returned to the Temple and began teaching, the leading priests and elders came up to him. They demanded, “By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the

right?”

<sup>24</sup>“I’ll tell you by what authority I do these things if you answer one question,” Jesus replied. <sup>25</sup>“Did John’s authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it merely human?”

They talked it over among themselves. “If we say it was from heaven, he will ask us why we didn’t believe John. <sup>26</sup>But if we say it was merely human, we’ll be mobbed because the people believe John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they finally replied, “We don’t know.”

And Jesus responded, “Then I won’t tell you by what authority I do these things.

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# By What Authority?

by Vince Leung



## DEVOTIONAL

**Tuesday**

The very next day, Jesus went back to the temple. While Jesus was teaching, the Jewish leaders came to question him. These religious leaders loved the power they had. But they saw Jesus as a danger. What he did at the temple was a big problem for them. They wanted to trap Jesus. They asked him, “By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?” (v. 23).

Jesus knew what they were trying to do, and answered them with a question. “Did John’s authority to baptize come from heaven, or was it just human?” Now here was a problem! If the leaders said that John’s baptism was from heaven, they were agreeing that Jesus’ authority was from heaven. Remember, John said that Jesus is “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

But if they said John’s baptism was from man, they were afraid the crowd would get angry, because many thought John was a voice for God. In the end the leaders answered “We don’t know.” With one question, Jesus uncovered their evil hearts! They did not care for the truth. No, they only wanted to hold onto their power.

Unlike those leaders, Jesus has true power. In fact, God has given all authority to Jesus (Matthew 28:18). But Jesus did not use his authority to push anyone around. Why did Jesus come to Jerusalem? He had no wish to use the authority God gave him to win a fight against those leaders or against the Romans. No, Jesus used his authority to win the fight against sin and death. So, let us joyfully worship him and humbly say “Yes!” to Jesus’ authority.



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Are you joyfully saying “Yes” to Jesus’ authority? Are there areas in your life where you are questioning Jesus’ authority? What might be stopping you from fully saying “Yes” to him?



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I praise you that all authority on heaven and on earth belongs to you. Please forgive me, and show me areas where I am not saying “Yes” to you. O Lord, please help me to say “Yes” to your authority with joy. Amen.



## Luke 21:34-38

### Watch Yourself

<sup>34</sup> “Watch out! Don’t let your hearts be dulled by carousing and drunkenness, and by the worries of this life. Don’t let that day catch you unaware,

<sup>35</sup> like a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth.

<sup>36</sup> Keep alert at all times. And pray that you might be strong enough to escape these coming horrors and stand before the Son of Man.”

<sup>37</sup> Every day Jesus went to the Temple to teach, and each evening he returned to spend the night on the Mount of Olives. <sup>38</sup> The crowds gathered at the Temple early each morning to hear him.

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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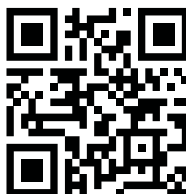
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# Christ Comes Near with Kindness

by April Pitman



## DEVOTIONAL

**Wednesday**

The high point of the salvation story was only days away. By the week's end, sin and death would finally face a real challenger. Adam had tried and failed. Noah also failed, even in a world washed clean of sinful people. Gospel hope was first whispered to Adam and Eve with the promise of a child who would crush the head of the snake (Genesis 3:15). Christ was the One who was promised – the promised hero who wins the war. In this grand story, what did a regular Wednesday hold for Jesus?

In verse 37, we learn that Wednesday was a day of teaching. We see that Jesus did not teach from far away, but up close. He chose to eat with “unclean” people, touching them and knowing them. This was strange and new! We can know what Jesus is like by looking at who he spent time with. He came close to the sinner, the person who was hurting and broken. He came close to people like me. Think about Christ's deep kindness as he comes to his people again and again. He came near so that we may come near to him.

We also learn that each evening Jesus “returned to spend the night on the Mount of Olives.” Jesus was homeless! All of heaven and earth belonged to him, but he chose to have nothing and become nothing. Christ's humble attitude means that nothing stops us from coming to him. He made himself as low as low can be. And he welcomes us in our poor lives.

We look forward to Sunday, but we can't miss this plain Wednesday. Christ, the God-Man, shows his deep kindness by making himself poor and low. And now we feel safe to come to him.



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

As I think about the people Christ helped, what do I see? What can I learn about him? How does this help me to come to him?



## PRAYER

Lord, I thank you that you came to me. Show me if there is anything that keeps me from coming to you. Help me to see how Christ welcomes me, no matter what.



## Mark 14:22-42

### Passover | The Lord's Supper

<sup>22</sup> As they were eating, Jesus took some bread and blessed it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it, for this is my body."

<sup>23</sup> And he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, "This is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice for many. <sup>25</sup> I tell you the truth, I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new in the Kingdom of God."...

<sup>29</sup> Peter said to him, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, Peter—this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny three times that you even know me."

<sup>31</sup> "No!" Peter declared emphatically. "Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you!" And all the others vowed the same....

<sup>41</sup> When he returned to them the third time, he said, "Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Up, let's be going. Look, my betrayer is here!"

**Notes** | Use this space to write your notes & reflections

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# A Picture of Promise

by Thaddeus Maharaj



## DEVOTIONAL

**Thursday**

Today Jesus will eat “the Lord’s Supper” with his followers. It is a special time on the Jewish calendar. Today Jews celebrate the “Passover” feast, which God gave His people before their escape from Egypt. This meal was a sign to help them remember how God saved them from death, through the blood of a perfect lamb. Long ago, God rescued the Jews from being slaves in Egypt. The Passover was a way to celebrate that rescue.

Jewish fathers led their families in this meal. In the same way, Jesus led the meal, but he gave it new meaning. The meal began with these words: “This is the bread of suffering that our fathers’ fathers ate in the land of Egypt.” Jesus holds the flat bread, which has holes and stripes on it. He breaks it and says “This is my body.” He then takes the cup of thanksgiving (see 1 Corinthians 10:16) and says “This is my blood of the new agreement between God and man.” Jesus is the true, perfect Passover Lamb who will die to save them from death (see 1 Corinthians 5:7). But he is also Yahweh, who gives his people this new picture before he goes to the cross to win their salvation.

After supper, Jesus’ followers think they are stronger than they really are. They do not spend time praying, and so they all fall away. But Jesus knew they would do this. He already promised to cover their sins in the supper they just had. Grace was promised before they failed Jesus. It is the same with us. Christ has already won our full salvation on the cross – even before we sin. Each time we celebrate the Lord’s Supper, we remember that he has rescued us from being slaves to sin.



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What personal sins has Jesus already paid for on the cross? How amazing is it that God did this even before you were born?

*Sing the hymn, “Rock of Ages”.*



## PRAYER

Lord, how often I stupidly think I can stand alone. I often fail to wait in prayer for Your strength to keep me from sin. But I thank You that Jesus Christ, our true Passover Lamb, has delivered me from death through his blood. In his strong name I pray. Amen.



## Mark 15:16-20, 27-39

### *Jesus is Mocked and Crucified*

<sup>16</sup> The soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. <sup>17</sup> They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. <sup>18</sup> Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spit on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. <sup>20</sup> When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified...

<sup>27</sup> Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>29</sup> The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. <sup>30</sup> Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup> The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! <sup>32</sup> Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.

<sup>33</sup> At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

<sup>34</sup> Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" <sup>35</sup> Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. <sup>36</sup> One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!" <sup>37</sup> Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. <sup>38</sup> And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. <sup>39</sup> When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# Facing the Cross

by Deepika Manickam



## DEVOTIONAL

Friday

In today's reading, we hear many voices crying out. The Roman soldiers cried, "Hail! King of the Jews!" People passing by shouted, "Save yourself, and come down from the cross!" The chief priests and Jewish leaders mocked, "He saved others, but he can't save himself!" Even the criminals spoke out against Jesus. Yet, in the middle of all these hateful voices, Mark helps us hear two other voices. They are the cry of our Saviour as he gives up his life, and the voice of a Roman officer who declares, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

The Roman officer faced the cross and heard Jesus' final cries to God. He faced the cross and saw Jesus give his last breath. He faced the cross and he saw for himself the power of Jesus' death. As the officer faced the cross he had to declare that Jesus Christ truly was the Son of God. Now here is an important question: How often do I face the cross? How often do I stop to look at the cross and see the powerful love of my Saviour, and His authority as the Son of God?

In the other Gospels we see that Jesus chose the exact time He would give up His life. He cried "It is finished!" Jesus fulfilled Old Testament promises in every way. (Take time to read Psalm 22.) Think about what the mockers said. We also can ask: Was Jesus the King of the Jews? Could he have come down from the cross and saved himself? Yes, and yes! But Jesus refuses to save himself. Why? *He refuses to save himself so that he can save you and me.* He died so that we may live. Seeing this, let us worship him with all our hearts!



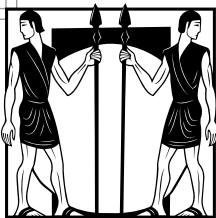
## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

As I turn my face to Jesus on the cross, what can I worship him for? How does Jesus' death on the cross show his authority as the Son of God? How does his death show his great love for me?



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I worship you because you truly are the Son of God. You chose to die so that I may live. You could have come down from the cross, but you stayed there for me. Thank you, Lord. Forgive me for not thinking more about your powerful work on the cross. Please grow my heart in worship to you. Amen.



## Matthew 27:62-66

### *The Guard at the Tomb*

<sup>62</sup> The next day, on the Sabbath, the leading priests and Pharisees went to see Pilate. <sup>63</sup> They told him, “Sir, we remember what that deceiver once said while he was still alive: ‘After three days I will rise from the dead.’” <sup>64</sup> So we request that you seal the tomb until the third day. This will prevent his disciples from coming and stealing his body and then telling everyone he was raised from the dead! If that happens, we’ll be worse off than we were at first.”

<sup>65</sup> Pilate replied, “Take guards and secure it the best you can.” <sup>66</sup> So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# A Stone, A Seal, and A Soldier

by Joyceson Canagaratnam



## DEVOTIONAL

**Saturday**

Jesus has died, but his enemies are still very worried. They can't forget what he said about rising from the dead. ("Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," John 2:19). So the Pharisees do everything they can to make sure this so-called "Messiah" does not steal the hearts of the people. They block the door to the tomb with a big stone, then they seal it tight. What's more, they put soldiers there to make sure that the dead Jesus of Nazareth stays in his tomb. But no stone, no seal, and no soldier could stand in the way of God's supernatural word.

When Jesus rose from the dead, all his enemies' hard work only shone a brighter light on the truth of Jesus' words! The resurrection was a supernatural work of God. Humans could do nothing to stop it. And all of this was in God's plan! He decided to use those fearful, nervous leaders. He chose to use the stone, the seal and the soldiers to show the world that his Son really is the Truth, the Life, and the Resurrection.

So we can say with Jesus' followers: the word of the Lord proves true. Jesus, the Son of God, came so we can know him personally. What better place to see how God keeps his promises than the place where our enemies are fighting hard against us? Maybe in this season you feel a bit like Jesus' followers, whose hearts were broken. Don't let anything you see stop you from crying out to Jesus Christ. Ask him to keep his amazing promises to you. Be patient and don't give up. One day, like Jesus' followers, you will be filled with joy when your Saviour does his work in your life.



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What hard things do you need to trust God to save you from? Can you believe the word of God to be more real than these hard things?



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are the "Yes" and "Amen" to my prayers. Help me see the wonders of your work in your promises. I call you my hiding place and my hope. I trust you – may I not be ashamed.



# Matthew 28:1-10

## The Resurrection

<sup>1</sup>Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. <sup>2</sup>Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup>The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

<sup>5</sup>Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. <sup>7</sup>And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup>The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. <sup>9</sup>And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

**Notes** | *Use this space to write your notes & reflections*

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# Worship the Risen Christ

**Everyday**

Today we celebrate because Jesus Christ has risen. He returned to heaven, where he rules at the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 1:20-22). The resurrection of Christ shows us that God accepted his death. Jesus' work to save us is complete. And He is coming back again to judge the world (Acts 17:30-31). This is great news! It moves us to worship, witness and work for Christ. The truth of the resurrection that first Easter Sunday must shape the way we live today.

Because Jesus Christ is our Risen Lord, we join in worship with all of heaven. They sing in a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was killed – to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:12)

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Christ. Now we go boldly to witness (that is, to tell others) and to make Christ-followers of all people. As we go, we trust his promise to never leave us (Matthew 28:18-20).

Because Jesus Christ is our Saviour and Master, we work with all our hearts. Whatever our job is, we work as the people he sent into our workplace. "And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father" (Colossians 3:17). We must live every part of life for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Paul wrote, "If our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world" (1 Corinthians 15:19). Jesus expected us to live in a way that shows we are putting all our hope in him. So let's worship, witness and work for him with everything we have because he has truly risen!



## QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

How does your life show that Christ has risen from the dead and is alive today? If Christ was not alive, how would you be more pitiful than anyone?



## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are the resurrection and the life (John 11:25-26). Our hope in you cannot be shaken in this life, nor in the next life. Help me to bring you glory for who you are – the risen and returning King!



For more info about the Gospel and what it means for your life,  
please visit

**[HOPECHURCHTW.CA/GOSPEL](https://HOPECHURCHTW.CA/GOSPEL)**



**YOU ARE LOVED**