



EASTER: THE RESURRECTION: IT'S ESSENTIAL

INTRODUCTION

Do unto others. Love is patient, love is kind. Turn the other cheek. It's easy to appreciate Jesus' teachings until the Bible writers tell us that he rose from the dead. For some, the idea of a person rising from the dead is so hard to believe that they cherry-pick the teachings and refute the resurrection. In this message, Andy Stanley recounts the truth about Jesus' life and death that the apostle Paul says is "of first importance."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about your favorite childhood memory of Easter.
2. What Easter traditions—religious or secular—do you currently observe? What meaning do they hold for you?
3. Did you hear anything in Andy's message that inspired you? Did anything bother you? Explain.
4. Is it easier for you to believe in Jesus' teachings than in his resurrection? Why or why not?
5. Read 1 Corinthians 15:16-17. Discuss the connection between Jesus' resurrection and our faith. Do you agree with Paul's assertion?
6. Read Matthew 7:13-14. How does Jesus' statement in this passage relate to Paul's teaching on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:14-20?

MOVING FORWARD

If there was no resurrection, we're being good for nothing. We should abandon all things Christian. But if Jesus did rise, he's the only man in history who predicted his own death and resurrection and then pulled it off. He's worth following.

If you're on the line, make a decision to cross the line into faith.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

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, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5