

“Thank God for Easter”

1 Corinthians 15:12–19

17 April 2022

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What are your feelings toward the death-defying stunts of a man like Harry Houdini? Or, more contemporarily, to the death-defying acts on a reality show like *America’s Got Talent: Extreme*? Do you enjoy watching these stunts? Hate it?

APOLOGETIC

2. Have you ever encountered the claim that Easter has pagan roots and that Christians should not celebrate it? What do you make of such arguments?

INTO THE TEXT

3. How important is it to affirm the *bodily* resurrection of Jesus Christ? What implications does this doctrine have for the eternal destiny of Christ’s people?

DIGGING DEEPER

4. Consider the consequences of a resurrectionless gospel, as laid out by Paul in our text. Talk through his reasoning.

Why is it “in vain” to preach and believe the gospel if the resurrection never happened (v. 14)?

Is it too strong to say that faith in sins forgiven is “futile” apart from the resurrection (v. 17)?

Why is Christ’s resurrection necessary to secure our (future) resurrection (v. 18)?

5. Talk through the logic of Pascal’s wager: “If Christians are wrong about Christ, they lose nothing. If non-Christians are wrong about Christ, they lose everything.” How does v. 19 speak to this claim?

6. Resurrection necessarily implies death. Why was it important for Christ to *die* in our place? Would it have been sufficient for him to shed his blood, or to suffer, without actually *dying* for our sins? Why, or why not?

7. Communion is the regular, God-ordained, visible reminder of the events of Easter. Paul warned that those who partake “without discerning the body” bring judgement upon themselves (1 Corinthians 11:29). What did he mean by “discerning the body”? How do we appropriately discern “the body” as we partake of the Lord’s Supper?