



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Sermon: Jesus Is The Resurrection

SPEAKER: REV. CHRIS SMITH | 10/26/2025 | PAGE 1 OF 5

Day 1: Hope in a Hopeless World

Devotional: Look around today and you'll see something troubling: despite living in times of unprecedented prosperity, many people - especially young adults - are drowning in hopelessness. They have access to more opportunities, technology, and resources than any generation before them, yet depression and despair seem to be at an all-time high. Social media feeds are filled with success stories, yet behind the screens, hearts are breaking and souls are searching for something real. This isn't a new problem. Even in Paul's day, people were looking for hope in all the wrong places. But Paul discovered something revolutionary: true hope isn't found in circumstances, achievements, or even relationships. It's found in the person of Jesus Christ and the power of His resurrection. The hope we have in Christ isn't wishful thinking or positive psychology. It's not something we've worked up in our minds to make ourselves feel better. It's grounded in historical reality - in the fact that Jesus Christ died and rose again, proving His power over death itself. This hope changes everything because it's not dependent on our circumstances but on Christ's character and promises. When the world around us feels chaotic and uncertain, when young people in our lives seem lost and without direction, we can point them to something solid and unshakeable. We can offer them the same hope that sustained Paul through beatings, shipwrecks, and persecution. This hope doesn't promise an easy life, but it promises a meaningful one - a life anchored in eternal truth rather than temporary circumstances.

Bible Verse: 'And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.' - 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

Reflection Question: In what areas of your life are you placing your hope in temporary circumstances rather than in the eternal power of Christ's resurrection?

Quote: We have a source of hope through Jesus Christ. It's not something that we've worked up in our mind. We have a foundation for this. Jesus Christ is that foundation.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, in a world filled with hopelessness, help me to anchor my hope firmly in You. When I see others struggling with despair, give me the wisdom and courage to point them to the solid foundation of Your resurrection power. Amen.

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850-260-5335



3349 McFatter Avenue, Vernon, FL 32462



info@gracevernon.org



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Day 2: When God Seems Late

Devotional: Have you ever felt like God was running late? Like He should have shown up sooner to prevent a tragedy or answer a desperate prayer? Martha felt exactly this way when Jesus finally arrived after her brother Lazarus had died. Her words cut straight to the heart: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." How many times have we echoed Martha's sentiment? "Lord, why did you allow this illness?" "Where were you when I lost my job?" "Why didn't you stop this relationship from falling apart?" These aren't questions of weak faith - they're the honest cries of hearts that are hurting and trying to understand God's timing. What's beautiful about Martha's response is that she brought her disappointment directly to Jesus. She didn't hide her feelings or pretend everything was fine. She didn't gossip to her neighbors about God's apparent absence. Instead, she took her questions, her hurt, and even her subtle accusation straight to the source. This is exactly where our doubts and disappointments belong - in honest conversation with Christ. Sometimes we feel that God is late, but His timing is perfect even when we can't see it. Jesus deliberately delayed His arrival because He had something greater in mind than healing - He planned to demonstrate resurrection power. What looks like divine delay might actually be divine setup for something far more magnificent than we could have imagined. God's apparent lateness often precedes His greatest demonstrations of power and love.

Bible Verse: 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.' - John 11:21-27

Reflection Question: What situation in your life feels like God is "running late," and how can you bring your honest questions and disappointments directly to Him in prayer?

Quote: Sometimes we feel that God is late. Or sometimes we feel like, lord, do you really hear my cry?

Prayer: Father, when Your timing doesn't match my expectations, help me to trust that You are never late but always perfectly on time. Give me the courage to bring my questions and disappointments directly to You, knowing that You can handle my honest emotions. Amen.

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Day 3: Jesus Understands Your Pain

Devotional: Two simple words in Scripture reveal the heart of God in a way that changes everything: "Jesus wept." When Jesus saw Mary and Martha grieving, when He witnessed the devastating impact of death on this family He loved, He didn't offer platitudes or theological explanations. He cried. This moment shows us something profound about our Savior - He doesn't stand at a distance from our pain. He enters into it. When your heart is shattered, His heart breaks too. When you're overwhelmed by loss, He feels the weight of your sorrow. The God of the universe, who has power over death itself, chose to weep alongside grieving friends. Too often, we think we need to clean up our emotions before coming to God. We imagine He's uncomfortable with our tears, frustrated by our questions, or impatient with our grief. But Jesus shows us the opposite. He's not a distant deity who can't relate to human suffering - He's a compassionate Savior who enters our pain and carries it with us. This is what makes Christianity different from every other religion. We don't serve a God who demands we figure everything out on our own. We serve a God who became human, experienced loss, felt rejection, and knows what it's like when life doesn't make sense. Sometimes our closest friends can't understand what we're going through, but Jesus always can. When you're in your darkest valley, remember that you're not alone. The One who conquered death is walking beside you, and He's not ashamed of your tears - He's sharing them.

Bible Verse: 'Jesus wept.' - John 11:35

Reflection Question: How does knowing that Jesus weeps with you in your pain change the way you approach Him during difficult times?

Quote: Jesus Christ cares where you're at, and he can relate to where you're at. Sometimes our closest friend cannot relate to where we're at, but Jesus Christ can relate to where you're at today.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for not being distant from my pain but for entering into it with me. When I'm hurting, help me remember that You understand completely and that Your heart breaks when mine does. Comfort me with Your presence. Amen.

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Day 4: God's Ways Are Higher

Devotional: "Lazarus, come forth!" With those three words, Jesus shattered every assumption about what was possible. A man who had been dead for four days - whose body was already decomposing - walked out of that tomb, still wrapped in burial clothes. The crowd that had come to mourn was suddenly witnessing the impossible. This miracle reveals something crucial about God's ways versus our ways. The mourners expected a funeral; God planned a resurrection. Martha and Mary wanted healing; Jesus provided something far greater - a demonstration of power over death itself. What looked like tragedy was actually the setup for the greatest miracle they would ever witness. Isaiah reminds us that God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so are His ways higher than ours. This means that when life doesn't make sense, when circumstances seem hopeless, when we can't see any way forward, God may be preparing something beyond our imagination. The same power that called Lazarus from the tomb is available in your life today. Whatever situation seems dead and buried - that broken relationship, that lost dream, that impossible circumstance - God specializes in resurrection. He doesn't just fix things; He transforms them into something greater than they were before. Jesus didn't come riding into Jerusalem on a horse leading an army to defeat the Romans, which is what people expected. Instead, He walked into town with power over death itself - something far more significant than political victory.

Bible Verse: 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.' - Isaiah 55:8-9

Reflection Question: What "dead" situation in your life needs God's resurrection power, and how can you trust His higher ways even when you can't understand them?

Quote: Jesus Christ has power for the resurrection. He has power to bring back that which is dead alive again. And that's foundational.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, when I can't understand Your ways, help me to trust that they are higher and better than mine. Bring Your resurrection power into the dead places of my life, and help me to expect the impossible because nothing is too hard for You. Amen.

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Day 5: Living Hope for Eternity

Devotional: Every one of us has an empty chair - a place at the table where someone we loved used to sit, a voice we no longer hear, a presence we deeply miss. The sting of death is real, and the grief that comes with loss can feel overwhelming. But as believers, we have something that transforms even our deepest sorrow: the hope of resurrection. This isn't just wishful thinking or a comforting fairy tale. It's grounded in the historical reality of Jesus Christ's own resurrection. Because He conquered death, we have the promise that death is not the end of the story. The same power that raised Jesus from the grave guarantees that we will see our loved ones again. Paul understood this hope intimately. Despite suffering beatings, shipwrecks, and countless hardships for his faith, he held fast to the resurrection promise. He knew that if Christ had not been raised, his faith would be meaningless and his suffering pointless. But because Christ did rise from the dead, everything changes. This hope doesn't eliminate grief - Jesus Himself wept at Lazarus's tomb. But it transforms our grief from despair into anticipation. We mourn, but not as those who have no hope. We remember our loved ones with tears, but also with joy, knowing that our separation is temporary. The resurrection hope changes how we live today. It gives meaning to our suffering, purpose to our service, and confidence in our future. When we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we become part of this eternal story of victory over death.

Bible Verse: 'If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' - Romans 10:9

Reflection Question: How does the hope of resurrection change the way you view both your current struggles and your eternal future?

Quote: We have the hope of a resurrection. We have a hope of seeing those loved ones once again. Amen. Yes. My parents also, they passed away. And I remember the last time I seen them on this earth. I remember the last conversation I had with them. But I am thankful that I will see them again.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank You for conquering death and giving us the hope of resurrection. Help me to live each day with the confidence that death is not the end, and that because You live, I will live also. Comfort those who are grieving with this eternal hope. Amen.

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