Victoria Fellowship Church International & Interdenominational Bible Study Worksheet – April 9, 2023

Theme: The Power of God at Work in us Topic: The Resurrection

Main Texts: Matthew 28:5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-9; 12-23; 35-58

Key verse: 1 Corinthians 15:3b-4 – "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures," (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION: The subject of the resurrection has been a contentious one for both Christians and non-Christians. In Mark 12:18, Scripture clearly identified one group which did not believe in the resurrection- the Sadducees. Even today, there are countless debates around the resurrection, first around Christ's resurrection, and then around the believer's resurrection. Some say Jesus Christ did not actually rise from the dead, but rather, His spirit did. And from that position, also insist that believers will also not rise bodily. But we see in all accounts of Jesus' resurrection, His death, burial, and an empty tomb!

1. (a) What do you believe about Christ's resurrection? Was it a bodily resurrection or that of His spirit? (b) The Gospels' accounts of Jesus' resurrection started with His crucifixion, death, burial, and an empty tomb. How would you explain the empty tomb in the light of Jesus' resurrection? When you think of our resurrection on the last day, how does 1 Corinthians 15: 40-45 help your understanding of what will happen on that Day?

After Jesus Christ rose from death, He appeared to His disciples and many others. He even ate with some. The resurrection was an integral part of the message Apostle Peter preached (Acts 2:24). Apostle Paul believed so much in the resurrection that he wrote about it in many of his epistles. For one, Christ's resurrection was God's confirmation that He is the Son of God (Romans 1:2-4). But more importantly, Christ's resurrection is a key aspect of the gospel he preached. For instance, summarizing his ministry to Timothy, he wrote, 'Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel (2 Timothy 2:8 NIV). And in our key verse, he again summarizes the gospel he believed and preached as the death for sin, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:3b-4)

2. (a) Read 1 Corinthians 15:3b-4,14-17. Why do you think Apostle Paul will list the resurrection as one of the important aspects of the gospel? (b) When you reflect on 1 Corinthians 15:14-9, what comes to mind concerning the resurrection? (c) Apostle Paul concluded this teaching on the resurrection with a call to service. How does the assurance of our resurrection motivate you for service?

When we think of the Resurrection, we often think of it as something in the future. In John 11, Jesus had gone to the home of Mary and Martha. Their brother Lazarus had died and had been buried. When Martha reproached Jesus for not coming on time, Jesus told her that, 'I am the resurrection and the life...' Martha's response was 'I have always believed that you are the Messiah.' She could not connect the Messiah to her brother's situation. The same can be true for many of us; we struggle to connect the fact that when we become born again, we are raised with Christ into a life of victory over sin.

3. Read Romans 6:6-9; Colossians 3:1-3 (a) How do you think Jesus's resurrection affects our Christian lives here and now? (b) According to 1 Corinthians 15:14-19, how does Christ's resurrection affect our hope for the future? (c) Let some participants share one or two major highlights they got from this study and how that will affect their view of the resurrection going forward.

Prayer: Father, thank You for raising Jesus Christ from the dead. I pray that by the power of Your Spirit who is in me, that You enable me to live for You even in this mortal body. In Christ's Name. Amen.