



WEEK 6
Shared Devotional
April 13-19, 2025

IF there were No Resurrection

If God's History among humans had come to an end on Good Friday, the last word on humankind would be: guilt, revolt, unfitting of all human-titanic powers, storming of heaven by human beings, godlessness, abandonment by God, which ends up ultimately in meaninglessness and despair. "Then your faith is futile. Then you are still in your sins. Then we are the most miserable of human beings." That is, the last word spoken is: humankind. On the cross of Jesus Christ, not only does our moral and religious life come to ruin by being found guilty, but our entire culture is also judged.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, sermon in Barcelona for Easter Sunday, 8 April 1928

Christian Life means being human by virtue of the incarnation, it means being judged and pardoned by virtue of the cross, and means to live a new life in the power of the resurrection. None of these becomes real without the others.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Ethics

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 1 Corinthians 15:17

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *God Is on the Cross: Reflections on Lent and Easter* (pp. 94-95). Presbyterian Publishing Corporation. Kindle Edition.

- So much of modern Christianity focuses on the cross. Why is this?
- The cross is the last word regarding the payment of sin, but it is not the last word of hope. How can we live better knowing that we are not just forgiven but reconciled to God?
- Who must we reconcile within the coming days?
- God is using human rebellion to fulfill his purpose of the cross. What else can God use to fulfill his purposes?
- Do we truly live as a people who are forgiven? How can we apply this more fully in our lives?
- Do we often consider the cost that Christ paid for our forgiveness?



Lenten Prayer Calendar for March to April

30 SOMALIA More Somalis live outside the country than within its borders. Pray that Somalis everywhere will hear the gospel.	31 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Pray for Divine, who was orphaned and badly burned when rebels set her church on fire.	1 CHINA Pray that children and young people, especially in remote villages, will have access to God's Word.	2 MALAYSIA Pray for Christian converts who are tortured in reeducation camps in attempts to force them to return to Islam.	3 NORTH KOREA Pray for the bold Christians who are working to bring God's Word to the North Korean people.	4 SUDAN Bibles are scarce because of ongoing efforts to Islamize the country. Pray for increased access to God's Word.	5 BRUNEI Pray that Bruneians will have more opportunities to hear the gospel.
6 TURKMENISTAN Authorities often search believers' homes for Christian literature. Pray for the freedom to study God's Word.	7 SYRIA Pray that Christian converts who lose family relationships will find comfort and fellowship in the body of Christ.	8 MOZAMBIQUE Pray for the encouragement of pastors working in areas where Islamist groups regularly attack Christians.	9 MALI Pray for the boldness of churches in the north as they share the gospel in an Islamic stronghold.	10 BENIN Pray that Christians who have been attacked by voodooists will be encouraged and stand firm in their faith.	11 NIGER Pray for the safety of front-line workers who use motorcycles to reach people in remote desert areas with the gospel.	12 ALGERIA Pray that Christians in Algeria will hold fast to "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3).
13 RUSSIA AND AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL Pray that Christians will have a vision to reach the lost.	14 BURKINA FASO Pastor Hamadou was shot to death by Islamists opposed to his bold witness. Pray that God will comfort his family.	15 PAKISTAN Pray for the encouragement of the roughly 4 million Pakistani Christians, using Joshua 1:9 as a guide.	16 TANZANIA Pray that Tanzanian missionaries will share the gospel with unreached people groups on the Swahili Coast.	17 YEMEN Pray that Bibles stolen in an attack on a church will touch the hearts of those who do not yet know Christ.	18 INDONESIA Pray that persecuted Christians in rural areas will find ways to fellowship with other Christians.	19 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray that Christians who suffered persecution will heal from their trauma.

Will you partner with MVPC this lenten season and commit to praying for those being persecuted.

20
SAUDI ARABIA
Pray that those who must worship in secret will have opportunities for fellowship with other Christians.