



Word Notes: Sunday 08/04/18

Tony Hodge: "Gods Not Dead" – Can it be true?

Key Text: John chapters 20 & 21

2000 years ago Jesus was crucified, dead and buried in a tomb sealed with a massive stone. If that was the end of the story then he was simply a man with maybe some good advice on how to live, but mixed in with some crazy and frankly unbelievable claims. And yet, if he was raised from the dead then that was a game-changer, not just for then but for all time. What evidence is there for the resurrection being true? If the evidence supports that what about the rest of Jesus' apparently outlandish claims – are they true also?

John's account of the resurrection holds key evidence to support the resurrection as fact not fiction. Eye-witness accounts referred to in both the Gospels and the writing of Paul add to this evidence. That so many people of the time changed their lives and stood up for the truth of a resurrected Jesus despite severe persecution underlines all this evidence. So – can it be true, and if so what does that mean to me and you?

Discussion

1, Firstly encourage one another by reading together 1 Corinthians 15. I suggest you stand and go round the group reading in turn – there are 58 verses so divide that into chunks and proclaim truth to one another, one verse each doesn't give the same opportunity for expression. Emphasise key points with pauses, try not to be bound by the breaks and handovers from one person to another but treat it as a living, dramatic reading.

Pray through the passage by each taking a short segment that has especially encouraged or touched your heart. Pray using words of praise, worship, thanksgiving, petitioning and intercession. It doesn't matter if two or more pick the same segment, agreement in prayer is good!

2, Having completed the above discuss the following:

What lifts your heart about the passage?

What challenges you?

How will you change as a result – in your attitudes, behaviour and actions?

3, How can we share our faith and enthusiasm for the truth of a risen Lord Jesus in a way that is meaningful? Consider real people and situations rather than hypothetically.

Pray for Holy Spirit "dynamite" power in our witness of Jesus.