



Sermon Discussion Guide



Easter: The Last Enemy

John 17:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:25,26

Ray Cortese, April 15 & 16, 2017

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

-  Read John 17:24-26 and 1 Corinthians 15:25,26. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

- 1 What are you afraid of? Are you afraid of death? When did you last experience the ugliness of death? Is it a downer for the Christian to contemplate death?
- 2 What was your one main/big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

THE LAST ENEMY: RECONCILIATION

- 3 How can spiritual death, or relational death, actually be more painful than physical death? How is becoming a Christian akin to a homecoming?
- 4 What did Ray mean when he said, "The resurrection is your receipt"?

THE LAST ENEMY: RESURRECTION

- 5 Should we call funerals “celebrations of life”? Why or why not? How did Jesus view death?
- 6 *We live with certainty.* How did the Coptic church respond to a Palm Sunday attack by ISIS? Would you have responded that way?
- 7 *We live purposefully.* Is being a Christian just about punching your ticket to heaven? How does the resurrection affect your life here and now?
- 8 *We live with anticipation of reunion.* Who are you looking forward to being reunited with one day in heaven? Who are you praying for now to embrace Jesus so they will share eternal life with you?

Step 3: Final Reflections

- † How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for Jesus and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- ♥ In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?