

Response: Come Lord Jesus and transform us so that we will be like you and and with you forever. Thank you for those that share this precious news as missionaries around the world [especially] . Make their work fruitful as many follow Jesus. Amen

6. ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory.’ (verse 54)

Death is unnatural. It is not what God intended for us. It is made worse by sin and the knowledge of judgement. But Jesus died for us and his resurrection shows that God has the victory over death and sin and that victory is ours when we belong to Jesus.

Response: Dear Father, we remember that you are the God of mercy and love. Thank you that you have defeated death through Jesus. I give thanks also for [.....] Help me to live in gratitude to you. Amen

7. ‘You know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain’ (verse 58)

Because we belong to Jesus, we now live to please him. Many of us have jobs in this world, some interesting, some not. But our real job is to work for Jesus and we have God’s promise that this will always be fruitful as we obey him and worship him.

Response: Gracious Lord help me to live for you knowing that my work is never lost. I bring before you my life and ask you to help me find and do the good works you have prepared for me. [Meditate on what these works are not matter how trivial they seem.....]

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Easter Meditations

2023

It is a long and wonderful tradition to deliberately focus our thoughts and prayers on the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. In his death Jesus took the guilt of our sins away and brought forgiveness. He loved us and died for us. His resurrection from the dead assures us of his victory over sin and death, a victory which he shares with us.

These seven Easter Meditations are inspired by the wonderful resurrection passage of 1 Corinthians 15, and enable us to focus on Jesus and to respond in prayer. May the Lord bless you as you hear and trust his Word.



1. **'Christ died for our sins'** (verse 3)

The old spiritual song asks 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?' In a sense, we were all present in the crowd or amongst the leaders rejecting and condemning Jesus, because we are capable of such sin. But Jesus prayed for all that they made forgiven. In his death he dealt with sin and bought our forgiveness. We owe Jesus our lives in the world to come.

Response: Father Almighty, I have sinned against you and against others in thought word and deed. I confess before you [.....] and ask for your forgiveness because Jesus died for me. Amen

2. **'Christ has indeed been raised from the dead'** (verse 20)

What God promised in the Scriptures, he did. He did not allow his Son to remain dead. He raised him to life again on Easter morning. He was seen by over 500 witnesses, who testified that he was no ghost. He was real he talked to his disciples, they touched him and he ate fish. His resurrection shows us what our future will be too.

Response: Gracious God, my heart is filled with thankfulness at your mercies, especially defeating sin and death through Jesus. I pray for my family and friends [.....] that their hope may be sure and their faith strong.

3. **'The last enemy to be destroyed is death.'** (verse 26)

It is natural to fear death. We even avoid thinking and talking about it. But Jesus rose from the dead; he is reigning now over all things; all evil will be brought to account in the end; then he

will destroy his last enemy death itself. We now have a great hope and his name is Jesus.

Response: Father in heaven, I have fears and doubts about death. [.....] I thank you that I can bring my fears to you and that you give me hope through Jesus. Help me always to trust him. Amen

4. **'We shall beat the image of the invisible man'** (verse 49)

We all bear the image of Adam, the earthly man the 'man of dust'. But he has now been replaced. He is now a 'heavenly man', the Lord Jesus, raised from the dead and seated on God's right hand. Our future is to be full of glory as we are made like Jesus.

Response: Lord, as we think of all that Jesus has done for us, we say [or sing]

Jesus Christ is risen today Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss Alleluia!

'Jesus Christ is risen today' Public Domain

5 **'We will not all sleep, but will all be changed'** (verse 51)

We pray 'Your kingdom come' as we await the return of Jesus. Whether we die before he returns or are still here, we may have peace. We will be resurrected and be with him forever. In that place there is no more pain, no more tears, no more evil.