

# HISTORICAL FAITH: THE RESURRECTION

## Week 3: Why Die For A Lie?

### Key Scripture

“Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God...while they stoned him Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

### Main Takeaway

They saw the risen Lord!  
“Death is all around us.  
We are not afraid. Written is the story! Empty is the grave”

– Kip Fox, *This Dust*

**Start Talking:** How do you show someone you REALLY mean what you are saying?

#### **Start Praying:**

Dear Jesus, you have defeated death. You have promised that the gate of Hades will never overcome your church. You have used persecution to grow your church in amazing ways. Help us step out in faith, stand firm, and not fear death! You give us the crown of life! Amen!

#### **Start Studying:** Read Matthew 27:62-28:15

- Read John 20:19 and Acts 5:27-32. What changed for the disciples? Why did they go from fear and locked doors to bold proclamation?
- Read Acts 7:54-60. What motivated Stephen in his final moments?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:54-58. This is the “Resurrection Chapter.” What has been swallowed up in victory? Notice the defiant victory chant! What does this call us to do in verse 58?
- Look at the attached image. This is how history and tradition has recorded the disciples died. All but 1 died a cruel death. How does this add credibility to their story? What did the early church Father Tertullian mean when he said “The blood of martyrs is the seed of the church?”

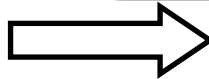
## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE APOSTLES AND WHERE ARE THEIR REMAINS TODAY?

 <p><b>ST. JAMES THE GREATER</b> DEATH Stabbed with a sword REMAINS St. James Church Compostela, Spain</p>	 <p><b>ST. JAMES THE LESSER</b> DEATH Stoned to death REMAINS Holy Apostles Basilica Rome, Italy</p>	 <p><b>ST. JUDE THADDEUS</b> DEATH Filled with arrows REMAINS St. Peter's Basilica Rome, Italy</p>	 <p><b>ST. PHILIP</b> DEATH Crucified by soldiers REMAINS Holy Apostles Basilica Rome, Italy</p>	 <p><b>ST. THOMAS</b> DEATH Thrust with a spear REMAINS Basilica of St. Thomas the Apostle, Ortona, Italy</p>	 <p><b>ST. PAUL</b> DEATH Beheaded in Rome REMAINS St. Paul's Church Rome, Italy</p>	 <p><b>ST. PETER</b> DEATH Crucified upside down REMAINS St. Peter's Basilica Rome, Italy</p>
 <p><b>ST. JOHN</b> DEATH Died a natural death REMAINS Basilica of St. John Ephesus, Turkey</p>	 <p><b>ST. MATTHEW</b> DEATH Stabbed with a sword REMAINS Cathedral of Salerno Salerno, Italy</p>	 <p><b>JUDAS ISCARIOT THE TRAITOR</b> DEATH Committed suicide after betraying Jesus</p>	 <p><b>ST. SIMON</b> DEATH Crucified REMAINS Altar of the Crucifixion Vatican City</p>	 <p><b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW</b> DEATH Flayed and beheaded REMAINS St. Bartholomew Church Rome, Italy</p>	 <p><b>ST. ANDREW</b> DEATH Crucified on X shaped cross REMAINS Cathedral of Amalfi Amalfi, Italy</p>	 <p><b>ST. MATTHIAS</b> DEATH Crucified in Judea REMAINS St. Matthias' Abbey Trier, Germany</p>

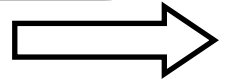
# NOTES

## Start Applying:

- When joining Redeemer you made a promise, “Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it.” Why are these promises important? Did you ever stop and think that the day may come when you are challenged to keep it?
- Our view of persecution is limited in America and for this we thank God. In the last year, 340 million Christians live where they experience high levels of persecution, 4,761 were killed for their faith, 4,488 churches and church buildings were attacked, 4277 believers detained without trial (Data from Open Doors). How does their faith inspire us? How can we support our persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world?
- Why is it important to remember that the goals of safety, security, comfort, happiness are penultimate, and the ultimate goal is eternal life?
- Where is God calling you to forget about the consequences and be bold in your confession of faith?



**Fill out Biblical Equipping**



**Finish in Prayer:** Dear God, you have done so much for me I pray that I continue to please you in all that I do. In your name we pray. Amen.

## BIBLICAL EQUIPPING

The Bible passage I will focus on is:

The part of this passage that caught my attention is:

I will apply this passage to my life by:

Before next meeting, the impact God had on me through this verse was: