

DIGDEEPER

March 27, 2016

Awake, O Sleeper by Dr. Richard Rogers

Ephesians 5:14 ([Listen Online](#))

THE BIG IDEA

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. By it, he defeated death, made our salvation secure, and declared that his kingdom will have no end. Every man and woman finds their destiny for all eternity in how they respond to the news that Jesus is alive. Either you find life in him or walk in darkness and be lost to death forever. Jesus' resurrection leaves no room for ambivalence.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

Which is more powerful: light or darkness? Why?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Reread the story found in Luke 24:13-35, and consider these questions.
 - What did the men hope Jesus was going to do in verse 21? What is the hope of Christians for each individual and the world as a whole?
 - How would you answer Jesus' question about the suffering of Christ in verse 26? What makes you answer that way?
- Take time to think about the resurrection of Jesus. List as many things as you can that were changed by that Sunday morning when the women found the tomb empty.
- In what ways do you encounter the three kinds of death we talked about: spiritual, physical, and living? What does the Bible have to say about each of these kinds of death?
- Are you dead or alive in Christ? How do you know?

GO DEEPER

- William Lane Craig has a good summary of [the difference the resurrection makes](#). Matthew Barrett offers [similar thoughts](#) in written form.
- Without the resurrection, the cross is meaningless. Chris Donato explains how [the empty grave gives meaning to the cross](#).
- The story we tell of a man once dead but now alive is really unbelievable to some. DesiringGod.org has a great article summarizing [the historical evidence](#) of the resurrection.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

The fact that Jesus is alive changes everything. If you're a Christian who has placed your hope in the resurrected King, your life is forever different because Jesus is not in the grave. You are now entrusted with the story of God's plan for the world. Men and women need the hope you have, but they can never know it if no one tells them. Who in your life needs to hear the story of Jesus and the salvation he now offers? Go, and share it with them this week.