



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Believe in the Resurrection of Christ

**SPEAKER**

Ps Jeffrey Aw

**THEME** Living the Christ Life

**DATE**

3 & 4 Apr 2021

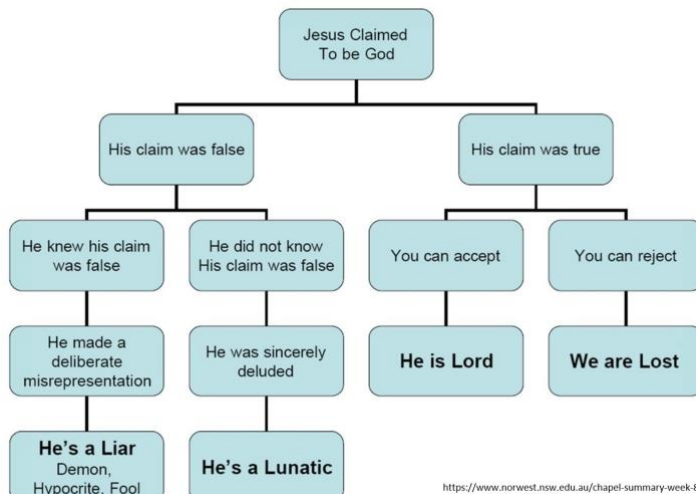
# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Good Friday marks the celebration of the death of Jesus Christ. Our sin against God’s Word and one another has formed a barrier between us and God. But the Good News is that God sent his only son, Jesus Christ to die for our sins, so that we may be reconciled with God. Those who believe in Him will receive forgiveness and eternal life. But death is not the end – Jesus rose from the dead after three days. His resurrection tells us that He has the power to be the bridge between us and God; has the power to forgive and atone for our sins. This is the reason why we Christians celebrate Good Friday. In today’s sermon, Ps Jeffrey Aw shares about Jesus’ Christ’s resurrection, and why we have reason to believe in Christ.

## BECAUSE CHRIST IS RISEN, WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IN HIM

- More than 500 eyewitnesses saw Jesus come back alive from the dead** (1 Cor 15:6)
  - It was such a mind-blowing event that some people who saw it with their own eyes still doubted Jesus (Matthew 28:17).
  - Remains an issue 20 years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- If Christ has not been risen, Christians have no more reason** (1 Cor 15:14, 17-19):
  - Our preaching and our faith are futile and in vain
  - We are still in sin and there is still a barrier between us and God
  - Those who died in Christ have perished forever
- Who exactly is Jesus - Is He a liar, a lunatic or the Lord?**



- Ps Jeffrey Aw explored three possibilities from the “trilemma”, an argument popularised by C.S. Lewis. C.S. Lewis says that we have to make a choice whether Jesus is just a great teacher, or if He is more than that.
- In the Bible, Jesus predicted His death, and that His resurrection will be on the third day. (Luke 18:31-33).
- If Jesus’ claim is false and He did not rise from the dead, then Jesus must be a liar because:
  - He is not the Son of God and He has no power to save us because He cannot even save himself.
  - He is not God and He cannot forgive our sins. So we will still be condemned in Hell, separated from God by sin.
  - The numerous healings, signs and wonders that we hear in the Bible and the testimonies of Christians that we hear today are all false testimony by tens of thousands of false witnesses.
- If Jesus’ claim is false and He did not rise from the dead, and he sincerely believed in what he claimed, then he must be a lunatic because:
  - He based His life on an illusion and was willing to be put on trial (beaten, whipped with hooks, His hands and feet nailed onto a cross until He died) and die for a lie at the prime of His life (i.e. 30 years old).
- However, if Jesus is not a liar or a lunatic, then He must be Lord. And He paid that painful price, so that man and God can reconcile.

#### 4. Three pieces of evidence for Jesus’ resurrection from the dead

- The Empty Tomb
  - There is historical and archaeological evidence that the tomb where Jesus was buried in is empty. Since 2,000 years ago, many people, especially those who opposed Jesus, speculated that the body of Jesus was stolen. However, till today, Jesus’ body has not been found and His tomb remains empty. If Jesus is no longer at the cross, and He is not in the tomb, then He must be alive.
- Historical Records of the Resurrection
  - 20 years after the resurrection, when it was still fresh in the mind of the people, Paul wrote to the Corinthians affirming that Jesus appeared to 500 brothers at one time (1 Cor 15:3-8). Some of these witnesses were still alive at the point of Paul’s letter. If what Paul had written was a lie, then the letter would have been thrown out, instead of being circulated and included as part of the Bible.
  - There are also at least 365 prophecies from the Old Testament that speaks of the coming of Jesus Christ.
  - Outside of the Bible, historians such as Flavius Josephus (AD 37- AD101) records the event of the resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day.
  - The strong growing tribe of Christianity today – there must be a reason why Christianity is the fastest, organically-growing faith group.
- Ps Jeffrey also goes on to emphasise that the most important evidence for Jesus’ victory over death is his personal testimony – evidence of how real God has been and is in his life.

### CONCLUSION

For God so loved the world (you and me), that He gave His only Son (Jesus), that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Jesus’ resurrection from the dead proves that He is the divine Son of God, who has power over sin, sickness and death. And because Christ has risen, we have reason to believe in Him!

# QUESTIONS

1. If you are asked to give reason(s) why you believe that Jesus Christ is God and that He rose from the dead, what would you say?

2. Our personal experience is an important piece of evidence that Jesus Christ has risen and is alive today. Share how your experience of God reveals that He is alive in your life today.

3. Because Jesus lives, we have reason to believe in Him. Knowing the power of Christ's resurrection and that we serve a living God, what are some specific areas in your life that you would like to see change in? and surrender for Him to do His work in you?