

RAISED UP WITH HIM DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPHESIANS 2:1-9

1 **Did you hear any talk about Easter on media outlets this past week?** Did any of them mention the resurrection of Christ?

⚙️ *How much of a danger is there of losing the significance of Christ's resurrection in our culture?*

🗨️ *When did the reality of the resurrection of Christ first impact you?*

🗨️ *Have you ever watched the celebration that takes place on New Year's Eve when the ball drops in Time's Square at midnight? What are they celebrating? How does this compare with our celebration of the most significant event in history, the resurrection of Christ? Why don't we get this excited on Easter? What needs to change in us to increase our excitement about the resurrection?*

2 **How would you explain Easter to someone who asked you, "What's Easter all about anyway?"**

3 **Ephesians 2:1-9 describes us as dead in sin, alienated from life in God, disobedient, under satanic influence, controlled by lust, and objects of divine judgment.** By ourselves, there is no way we could possibly escape this devastating reality.

❤️ *If we are ever going to experience life, what needs to happen? Try to use some of the key words from the text to explain your answer.*

📖 *What does resurrection have to do with it?*

4 **In redemptive history, the storyline unfolds in four basic segments: Creation > Fall > Redemption > Re-creation/Restoration.** How does the cross and empty tomb fit into the story line? Where are you in the story line, and what's next in the sequence?

5 **Read Heb. 2:14-15.** Though death is the most certain thing in life, why do you think people avoid talking about it? How have you seen the fear of death enslave people? Have you ever felt enslaved by the fear of death? How can meditations on the resurrection help people who fear death?

6 **When you were born again, you were made alive; you received new spiritual life within.** If you think of this as part of the resurrection power of Christ working in you, how does that give you encouragement in living the Christian life and in ministering to people's needs?

7 **Historically people have claimed to know God on the basis of one of three structures.** How would each of the following handle the idea of the resurrection? Which structure best describes your approach to knowing God?

⚙️ *Mysticism – claims to have knowledge out of personal encounters.*

⚙️ *Reason – claims to be able to demonstrate the existence and work of God through logic.*

⚙️ *Revelation – claims that God has disclosed himself in events and words.*

8 **In Ephesians 2:1-9, Paul states that humans start out dead, spiritually alienated from the life of God.** Estranged and separated from their Creator. If that is the case, how would you respond to the following?

🗣️ *Some people think, "I've always known God. I've always had a relationship with God." Is that possible?*

🗣️ *Some people claim to be alive now, but have no idea when they passed from death to life. How does (2Cor. 5:17) contribute to the conversation?*

🗣️ *Something has to happen to trespasses and sins in order for someone to pass from death to life. What needs to take place?*

🗣️ *Some people claim to be alive now, but live like they are spiritually dead. How does (Rom. 6:4) contribute to the conversation?*

9 **The Bible says that you are now seated with Christ in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).** As you meditate on that fact, how will it affect your prayer life and your engagement in spiritual warfare against demonic forces?

10 **Who participated in Christ's resurrection according to the following passages?** (Gal. 1:1) _____, (Rom. 8:11) _____, and (John 2:19-22) _____.