

Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025
52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know

Week 18 - LIFE'S BOTTOM-LINE QUESTION

John 11: 25

“I am the resurrection and the life.

He who believes in me will live even though he dies”

This one statement is among the most bold and definitive acknowledgements of our Lord's deity. The resurrection is what separates our Lord from a thousand other gurus and prophets down through the ages. This bold declaration is then followed, in the next verse, by life's bottom-line question. After declaring Himself to be the resurrection and life, our Lord turns to His hearers-and to us-and asks, “Do you believe this?” (John 11:26). I've often wondered how Jesus spoke this question. Did He ask, “Do **you** believe this?” Or did He ask, “Do you **believe** this?” Or perhaps he asked the question as: “Do you believe **this**?” Think about it. Life's bottom-line question is personal, pointed and precise.

LIFE'S BOTTOM-LINE QUESTION IS PERSONAL

“Do *YOU* believe this?”

Perhaps the Lord put the emphasis on the *YOU* in His question in order to drive home the fact that it is personal. After all when it comes to saving faith in the finished work of Christ, what I believe is what matters most - not what anyone else believes. Our faith is a personal matter between our Lord and ourselves. Increasingly in the twenty-first culture, an increasing number of individuals seem to be captivated by various documentaries, movies, and books that question the gospel account of the resurrection. To many it is perceived as a myth or fable. It might well be that Jesus is still asking today: Do **YOU** believe this?

LIFE'S BOTTOM-LINE QUESTION IS POINTED

“Do you *BELIEVE* this?”

It may be that in asking this question, our Lord put emphasis on the word *BELIEVE*. After all, faith is the proper response to the Christian gospel. Jesus was not inquiring of His hearers as to whether they were giving intellectual assent to His claims. He wanted to know if they would trust Him and take Him at His word by faith. It's one thing to know the gospel story intellectually. It's one thing to attempt to conform ourselves to its claims and seek to take on a new set of moral standards. But life's bottom-line question is pointed. Jesus begs to know if you have transferred your own trust from human efforts to Him alone. Has this saving faith, this resurrected life, this “Christ in me” experience made a difference in your life?

LIFE'S BOTTOM-LINE QUESTION IS PRECISE

“Do you believe *THIS*?”

We now arrive at the real hearts of the issue. Life's bottom-line question is precise at four very specific points related to Jesus' claim “***I am*** the resurrection and the life.” Do you believe Jesus' claim about deity. The most fundamental belief in the Christian faith is that Jesus Christ is God Himself clothed in human flesh. He is not merely some figure out of history or the object of some sentimental story from our childhood. He is God. Do you believe **this**? Do you believe His claim about death? Many people live their lives in total denial of their coming appointment with death. It is a fact: we are going to die! Nothing can stop the fact of the continuing march towards an appointment with eternity. Do you believe **this**? Do you believe His claim about destiny? Jesus said, “whoever lives and believes in me will never die”. It's strange how so many today live their lives as if this life is all there is. Jesus said that even though death is sure, we are going to live again. The body may die, but not the spirit. We have an eternal destiny. Do you believe **this**? Do you believe His claim about deliverance? The Lord makes it perfectly plain that eternal salvation is through faith in Him alone and not through human effort or our own good works or intentions. Do you believe **this**? Life's bottom-line question is personal. Do **you** believe this? It is pointed. Do you **believe** this? And it is precise. Do you believe **this**?

As you memorise this verse this week, meditate on Martha's reply, “Yes Lord I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world”. Would you join her by professing the same. And then you will begin the great adventure for which you were created in the first place.