**TED Talks Faith: *Resurrection Edition***

*Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020*

*Curated by Nate Sell*

***Happy Easter everyone! Today’s TED Talk will examine the idea of immortality.***

***Let’s begin with a prayer:***

Glory to you, O God:

You have won victory over death,

raising Jesus from the grave

and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:

for us and for our salvation you overcame death

and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

You lead us into the truth.

Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity,

now and forever. Amen.

**Watch the following TED Talk or read the transcript:** <https://www.ted.com/talks/stephen_cave_the_4_stories_we_tell_ourselves_about_death/transcript>

**Ask yourself:**

What stood out? What did you agree with? What did you disagree with?

Is believing in the Resurrection just a bias?

Does being hardwired to believe something necessarily make it untrue? Is it possible that being biased towards belief in an afterlife in fact points to an afterlife? Why or why not?

Would you want to be kept immortal in any of the ways the speaker offers? For example, would you want to download your thoughts to the internet, or be frozen to be resurrected later? Why or why not?

Is living a good story with your life a satisfactory answer to the dilemma of death?

What about the thousands and thousands of people whose lives have been stories of misery due to circumstances beyond their control? What does this solution mean for them?

How does the Christian narrative stand in contrast to this idea? How is it similar?

**Read the following passages** from the great Reformed theologian, Karl Barth:

*“For when we die He is still the One He is. Death is subject to His power and control. Even our last enemy can do nothing more to us than it is ordered to do. Death can be dismissed by the One who has appointed it. It can be disarmed by the One who has armed it. Death is our frontier. But our God is the frontier even of death. For He does not perish with us. He does not die or decay. As our God He is always the same. Even in death He is still our Helper and Deliverer.”*

*“As He is our Hope, even in death we are already of its clutches and victorious over it. Even as we suffer it, it is already behind and beneath us. We do not boast of an immortality which is ours when we say this. We do not glory in anything of our own. With our death as the sign of God’s judgment it is decided that nothing at all belongs to us, not even grace, let alone a righteousness which can only mean our condemnation… yet we cannot refrain from saying, without any boasting, boasting, that according to His own Word He is this, and that as such He is our Helper and Deliverer and therefore our hope.”*

*“Death may still be the tyrant, but it is no longer an omnipotent tyrant. We may not be able to escape it, but a limit is set to it. It is a bitter foe, but not a deadly one. It is terrible, but cannot destroy us. It is our frontier, but one which has its own frontier. It can take away from us everything we have. It puts an end to our existence. But it cannot make God cease to be God, our God, our Helper and Deliverer, and therefore our hope. It cannot do this. And since it cannot, we may seriously ask: What can it do? What is all that it can do compared with all it cannot do? What is the power of its prison, its assaults, its bitterness and its terror? What is the meaning of what it can and does do to us? Is not its great darkness into which we enter already outshone by a dazzling light?”*

**Ask yourself**: How is this different from the TED Talk speaker’s view? Do you believe it?

**Read this passage from 1 Corinthians:**

12Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; 14and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. 15We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18Then those also who have died[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28721e)] in Christ have perished. 19If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28723f)] 21For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24Then comes the end,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28727g)] when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**Ask yourself:** Can you believe this Good News?

**Closing Prayer:**

We thank you, Lord Christ, that we need not fear death.

Thanks be to God! Jesus is risen today!

You have defeated this last enemy. You are ever with us.

And so, even at the grave, we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God, Christ is risen, indeed. Amen