**Life Group Notes**

**Sunday 22nd May 2022**

**Easter and God’s Eternal Plan**

**Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-7**

1. What does Paul say is of ‘first importance’ in the gospel he preached?
2. Paul appeals to two kinds of evidence for the gospel. What are they? (The Scriptures and eye-witnesses of the resurrection).
3. How much does, or should, scriptural and historical evidence form the basis for your faith?

**Read these verses**

* Christ was chosen **before the creation of the world**, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. *1 Peter 1:20*
* the Lamb who was slain **before the creation of the world**. *Revelation 13:8*
* For God chose us in Christ **before the creation of the world**to be holy and blameless in his sight. *Ephesians 3:4*
1. What does it mean to you that God had a purpose in Christ, and for us, before he even created the world?

Don’t get trapped in a fruitless debate about predestination! The point here is that God has had a purpose. Christ’s life, death and resurrection were not some ‘afterthought’.

**Read Isaiah 53:1-9**

1. How many references or allusions can you find to Christ’s life and passion in this passage?
2. In Isaiah 53 and in Psalm 22 the specific events that were prophesied around Christ’s crucifixion are all events over which Christ had no control – he could not have manipulated their fulfilment. What do you think is significant about that?

**Life Application**

1. What difference does or should it make to your daily life as a Christian to consider that your faith is rooted in God’s eternal plan rather than in the vicissitudes of your personal experience?
2. Whenever you have opportunity to share your testimony about becoming a Christian how much do you emphasise the particular circumstances of your conversion experience and how much the fact that Christ lived, died, was buried and rose again?