

CRUCIFISURRECTION

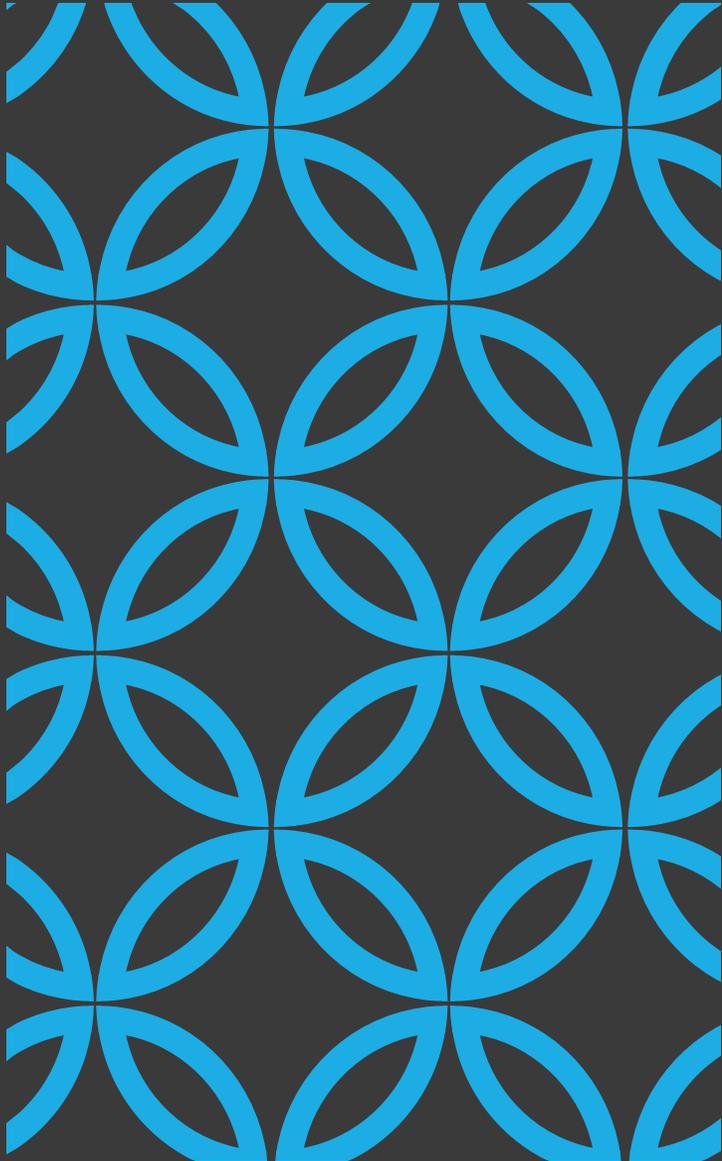
The greatest (2) days in history



“NOW THIS IS NOT THE
END. IT IS NOT EVEN
THE BEGINNING OF
THE END. BUT IT IS,
PERHAPS, THE END OF
THE BEGINNING.”

Winston Churchill

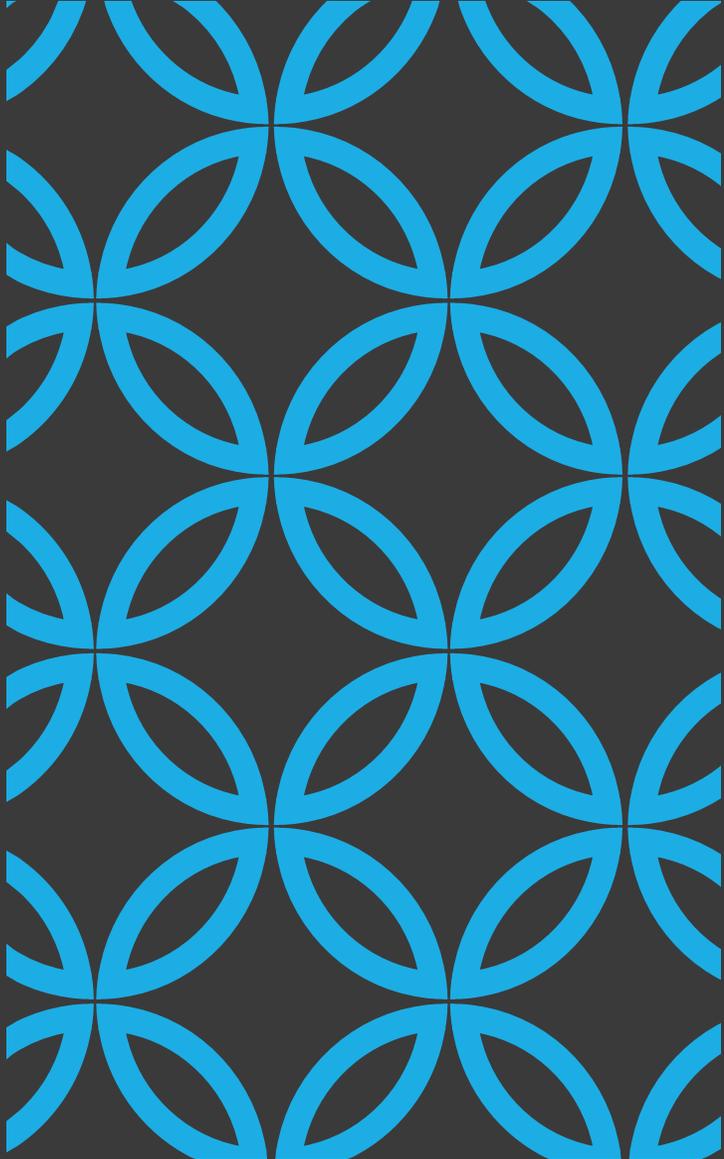
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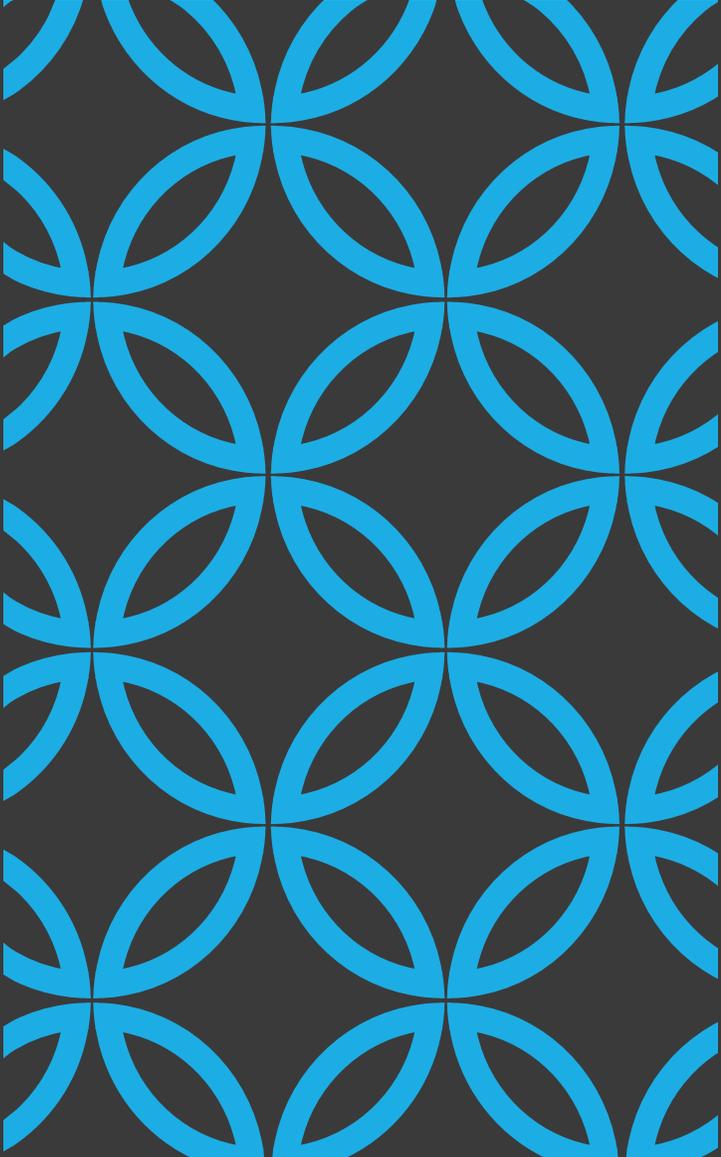
“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.”

“But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

What is their response?

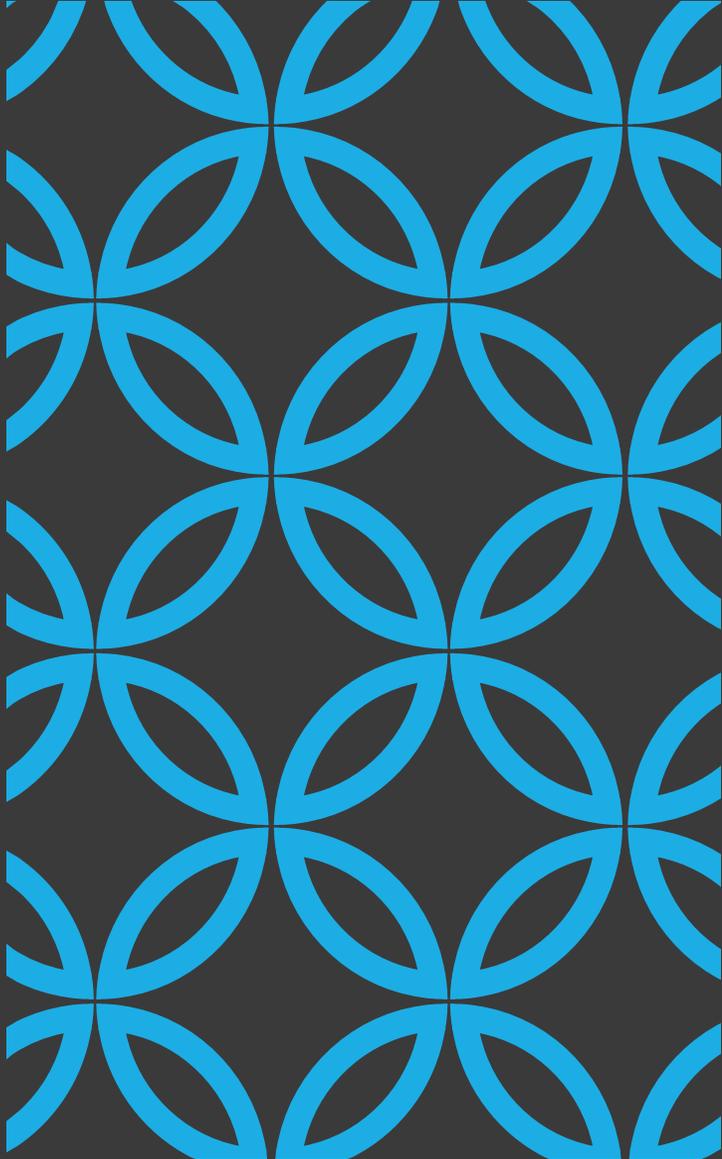


“Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.”



They still think it is the end

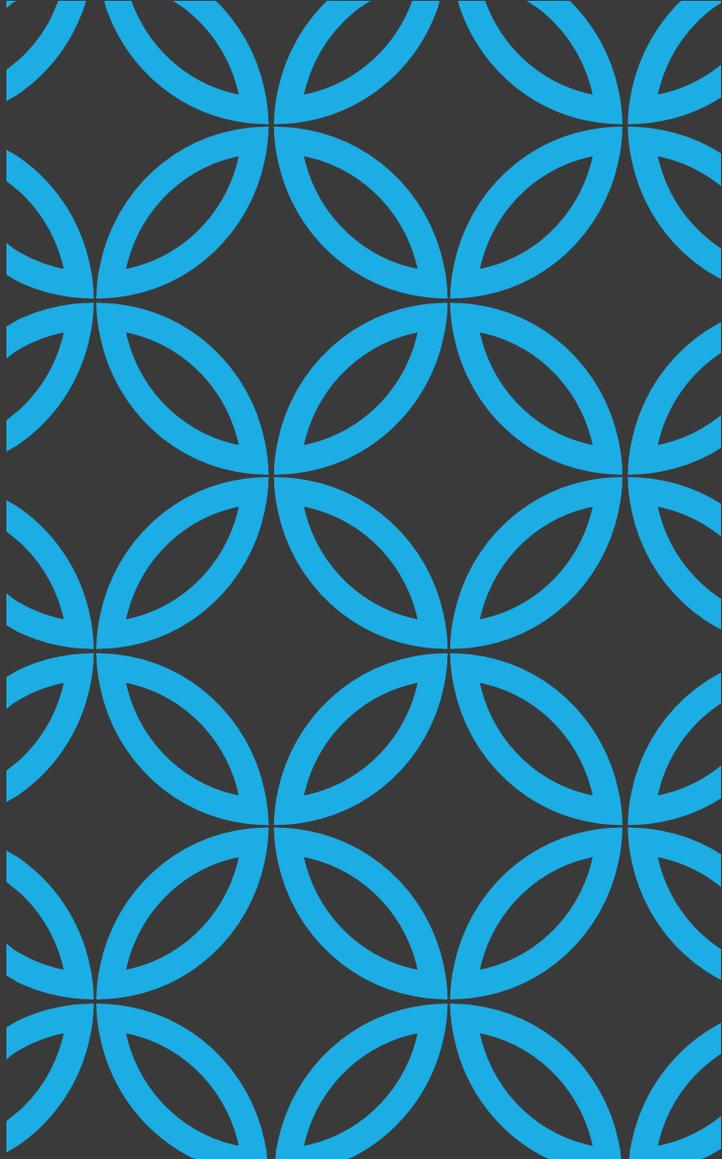
Question through the whole of *Mark's* gospel:
“What do you choose to believe?”



This is not the end - the Gospel does not finish with the crucifixion.

This is not the beginning - the Gospel plan has been in progress since the Garden of Eden.

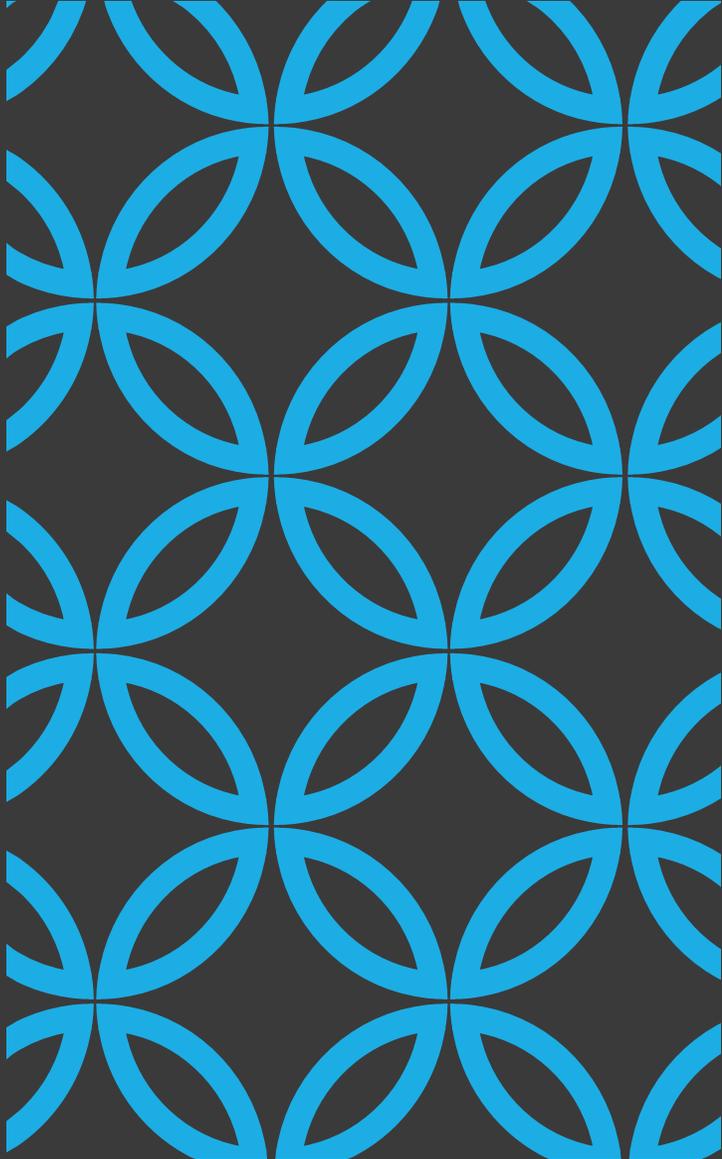
This is the beginning of the end - a glorious triumphant victorious end when Jesus returns and sickness and death are finally conquered.



But it is not the end of the end. We cannot put our feet up and wait for the glorious conclusion.

There is work to be done and the first work is faith-work. What do we choose to believe?

Two challenges we face:



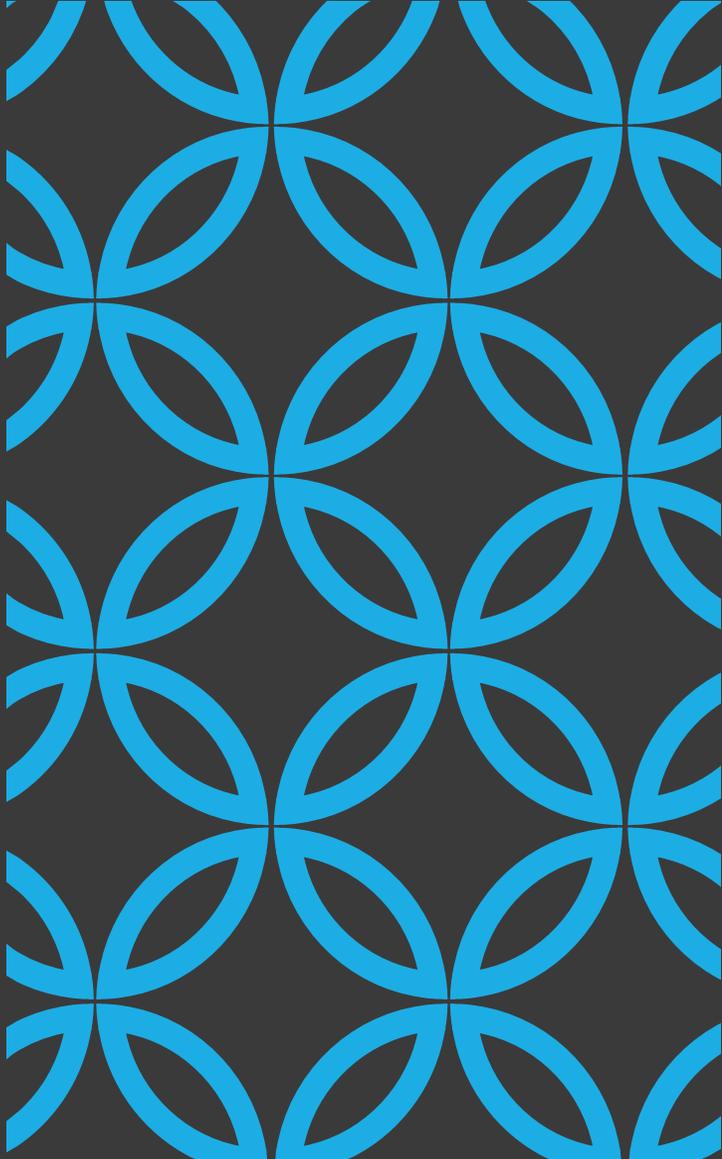
Triumphalism. The assumption that all of the future promises are here already.

I am healed (please ignore my symptoms)

I live in victory (please ignore my occasional lapses)

My prayers are always answered (some are still waiting for the out-working)

UNREALITY



Cross-limited living:

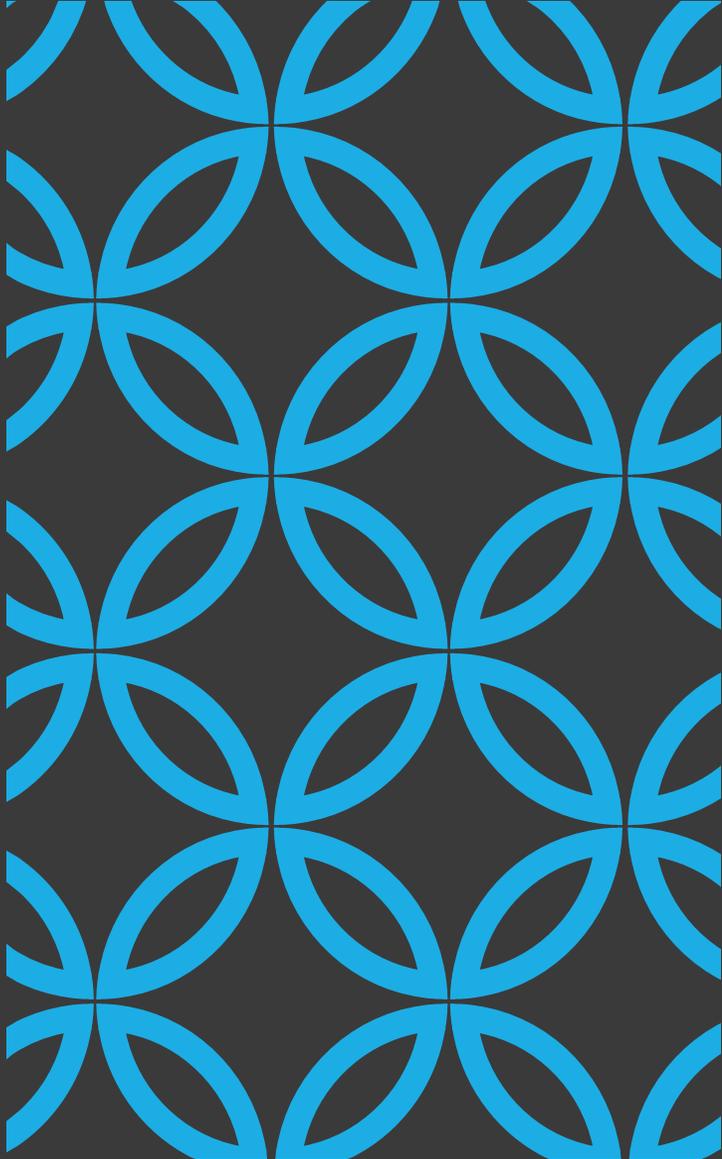
We still live in Mark 15

My struggle with sin is renewed daily.

I am a worm and not a man.

Standing at the foot of the cross - and not going on
to the empty tomb.

LIMITED REALITY



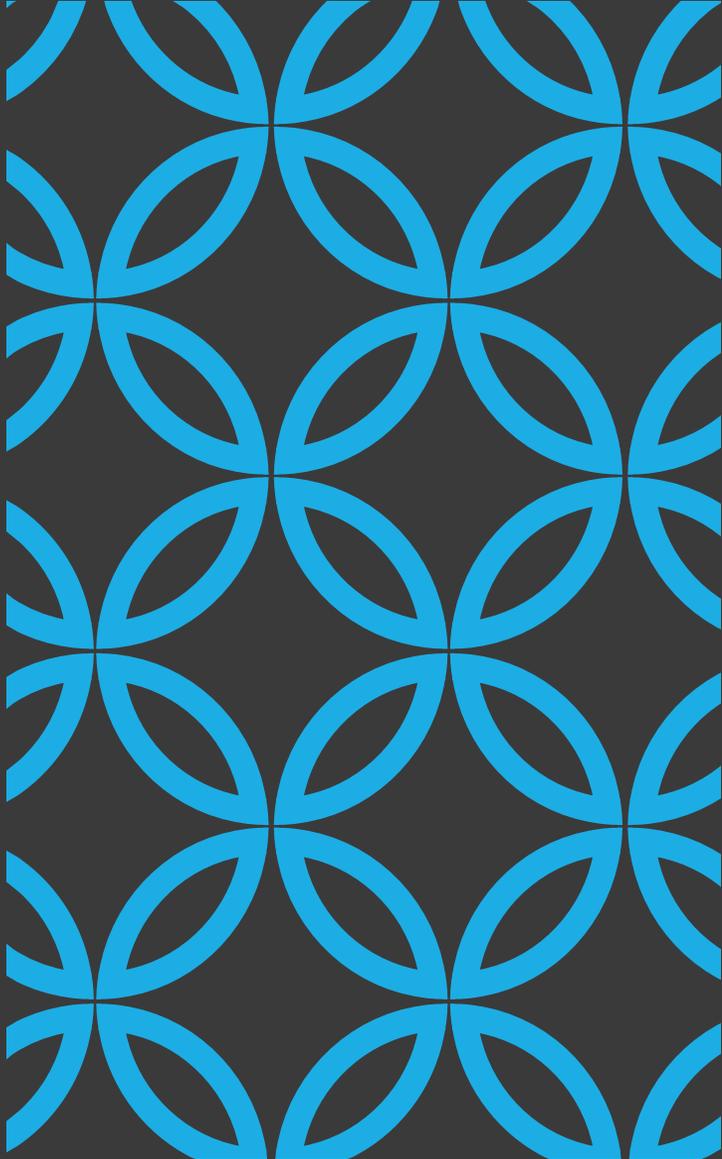
Crucifixion living:
The sacrifice of the cross and the power of the
resurrection

Reaching in faith for the fulness of new life

Picking up our cross daily.

Standing at the foot of the cross - and then going
beyond the empty tomb.

FULL REALITY



For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.....

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Cor. 15: 16-20

