



**Easter, Let us not Forget!  
He is Risen 2020  
By Pastor Jody May**

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**This is what is being read between song 1 and 2:**

**Matthew 28: 1-10**

**The Resurrection**

**28** Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

**This is the text where I will start at for the day:**

**The Resurrection of Christ**

**15** Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the



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Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

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**Who would have thought:** Who would have thought that Easter this year would find us all celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in our homes and what was usually held as high attendance day for churches became null and void? The Easter Egg Hunts and Egg Drops put on by our communities, the large groups of people gathering together enjoying spring weather, big multiple family brunches, eating lunches out, all gone. And while it feels different here's the truth to all of that, **NOTHING HAS CHANGED...**

The most essential and fundamental thing about this day is still the same, Jesus rose victorious from the grave, as made evidence by an empty tomb, first discovered by 2 women, whom He appeared to, then to His disciples and then to more than 500 witnesses! No conspiracy has ever been proven, no lies about the empty tomb have ever been discovered, no one, not even atheists doubt the empty tomb. AND still the best argument that historians and theologians alike can come up with is that Jesus came back from the dead!

I mean let's be honest though with one another... it feels different. Does this day **feel victorious** to you? Do you know where your feeling comes from? **A BELIEF**. What you believe determines how you view the world - your view of the world determines your reality - **the reality you live in determines how you FEEL**.

**Illustration:** For example, a month back when things started getting real over here in our country, some of us started taking more of an interest in the news and some of us started to ignore it more. It seemed that there were a group of people who were totally caught unaware/unprepared and then there were those that said, "I told you something like this was going to happen!"



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Now I don't want to stereo type, but it seems that those in Group A were more apt to buy out the TP, disinfectants and meat counters while those in group B continued to live in stride. Group B, again not stereotyping, seemed to be the people who were more pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, lived in the suburbs to rural areas, could grow their own food, and didn't have all their funds tied up in stocks. Now I know that there is a lot of overlap in those groups but play along for a moment.

Those in Group A tend to be affected more by this pandemic because of the suddenness of the onset. Then in Group B there were those that had been prepping for a day as such as this for years already. So, Group A is not so content during these days and Group B, while I don't want to say happy, seemed to be a little more even keeled. **The point is, the reality of Group A did not really believe this could happen and the reality of Group B is they believed it actually would.** Hence when COVID19 hit the fan the two views of reality produced two different types of emotional responses; "What Happened!?" and the "I told you!"

I believe it to be important for us to pay attention to our Bibles today and see, that God has provided, **not just** for a time like this, but for all time, a new reality, a new world view, through a person - a **NEW BELIEF**, that **those who were found to be righteous could and would be resurrected from the dead!** Not only that, but God said that this would be a resurrection power that would be shared for those that put their Faith in Him for Salvation!

Two thousand years ago everyone was in Group A, no one had sure hope, and all did what seemed right for themselves, **BUT GOD**, struck and everything changed! We now have Group A that tries to ignore it and believe that it could never happen and then there is Group B that believes by a gift of Faith that it has happened, and it will happen for them one day as well!

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22 ESV**



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<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ **shall all be made alive.**

That means no matter what happens family, our Worldview does not change, meaning our FEELINGS are only mildly affected by a series of events, because **we are transformed by the TRUTH of the empty tomb** because God changed everything! **Oh, if it was only that easy right!?**

We see this in the scripture this morning, Paul dealt with it in his day back in the first century, with people who actually saw the risen Jesus! 1 Corinthians 15 is Paul's final point on why the people of Corinth should be living differently.

You see the Corinthians, when you read about them were a messed-up church! Paul has to start out with having to flaunt his creds as an Apostle for they didn't want to listen to him. Then he addresses all the different divisions in the church based on who the people liked to listen to as teachers and to what they held to as essential beliefs. Some were flaunting over others their gift of speaking in tongues, while others celebrated their affluency over the poor (Lord's Supper) believing it was because God loved them more. Then there was this whole other faction of people that seemed to not even know what biblical morality was; Let's just say adultery and homosexuality was not something to be avoided but it was something they were praising in the church! So, Paul is like Whoa! Let's clear that all up and then as his last apologetic or argument he starts in on chapter 15 with ***"Let me remind you..."***

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day**

The reason, that you (Corinthians) are reacting to life and following the whims of your hearts, Paul is saying, is that you are not living out of the



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**TRUTH** that God has changed everything by the raising of His **SON!** You're still **living** as **Group A!** Your social structure, your habits, your culture, all of it does not matter because God changed everything! **You are to live remembering what the resurrection has brought you!**

Do you know what we are looking at today in the world? I am addressing, **The Universal church:** the orthodox, the protestant, main-line, liberal and conservative, the multi-denominational *body of the visible church*, it seems that God has put time on halt for this holiday, the **MOST IMPORTANT DAY IN OUR CALENDAR!** It is as if there is an **echo coming back** from the first century that is just now reaching us, "**Let me remind you....** That you are not to put your generational likes, habits (tribes), cultural leanings, politics, your ideologies, traditions, earthly hopes, jobs, social justice platforms, political correctness, spiritual giftings, your need for theological correctness, and all those things that you have used to drive your emotional stability (making you **FEEL important**) - all those things are to be put in subject to this: **What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ tell you to do!?**

**God has prepped us for this moment family.** Habakkuk, when he was faced with an unknown future, he had to remember God's character, he had to step out for a clear perspective, and then respond with worship to a God-centered world view. Right now, we are going to heed Paul's words just for a few moments and look at what the Resurrection says to us to help us worship (all of life) with a Gospel-centered view, so that we may live with **uplifted hearts. (I want the heart to catch up with the brain now!). One thing the Resurrection teaches us:**

**God is Faithful.**

To be faithful, most of us would use that term to describe someone that does not commit adultery while being married. Being faithful in a marriage most people see as someone, that no matter what, will make the other person happy. That is a shortcoming on our part for to be faithful in marriage should mean more. **Being faithful** in a marriage is when a



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**person holds to the marital promise**, the vows, the covenants **no matter what the other person decides to do**. We tell each other things like I will love you for richer, poorer, in sickness, and health, forsaking all others, till death do we part. Never, have I done a ceremony that says, “unless you do something stupid!”. **Faithful is to mean what you say when you make a promise even if the other person fails to do so.**

The Resurrection is the culmination of God’s plan of Salvation. It is the high point of all of history, it is the ½ of the answer for all things, and what it teaches us is that when God promises to do a thing, He does it **- He’s Faithful!** The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead not only shows God’s faithfulness to Jesus but it shows His faithfulness to us.

- The **Adamic Covenant**, Genesis 3:15– God promises the serpent and us **JUSTICE!**
- The **Noahic Covenant**, Genesis 9:15-16 – God promises not to destroy the earth ensuring our **PRESERVATION!**
- The **Abrahamic Covenant**, Genesis 12:1-7 – God promises to make a people for Himself and to give them a home/land. **HEIRS!**
- The **Mosaic Covenant**, Exod. 19:5-7 – God gives the conditions/obligations of a relationship with Him, **BLESSING!**
- The **Davidic Covenant**, 2 Samuel 7:8-11 – God makes a promise to the King, to deliver all enemies over and the people will benefit from you AND that God will ensure the throne will last forever, Is. 11:1 – **ETERNAL KINGDOM!**
- Promised **New Covenant**, Jeremiah 30-33 & Ezek. 37:26 – God will remove our hearts that can’t love Him rightly and will replace them with new ones. – **REDEMPTION!**

**How does Jesus do all of this THROUGH the RESURRECTION?**

- Jesus brought Justice to the serpent, God, and His family on the cross.
- God restrained His wrath toward the world and poured it on Jesus on the cross.



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- God provided a people by which Jesus would come into this world.
- Jesus fulfilled all Mosaic principles when no one else could.
- Jesus as the shoot out of Jesse fulfills the Davidic covenant setting up an eternal throne to bless all His people.
- Jesus is raised from the dead for He was blameless, and the **Resurrection is the VINDICATION** of all His claims!

It is by believing in the Resurrection that our **hearts change** for you see it means **we finally realized** we have only been **faithful to ourselves**. When we see, believe, and worship the resurrection of our King it means that we have truly seen our need for Him, and we accept what only He can do!

It means we recognize that:

- We turn to our spouses daily for the justification we need.
- We use our children to prove to the world we have worth.
- We use our ability to work, receive promotions, achieve goals and make money to show that we have value.

Today many of us our feelings, if we are honest, may be down and that is because many of the things we sought to justify ourselves with have been put on hold, you can't do them right now. If that is true then we show that our faithfulness is really to ourselves, to our own happiness in our own ways. Therefore, God demonstrates His love in this way, because He remains Faithful even when we are not...

**Romans 5:8 ESV**

**“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”**

**God does not demand our faithfulness first but first demonstrates His faithfulness to us!** That is what Paul was reminding the Corinthians 2,000 years ago. It **doesn't matter what type of feeling** you get from how you are **behaving** towards one another but what matters is that you realize **FIRST** what the Resurrection does for us as a people. That is why he



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wrote this great chapter about covenantal love in 1 Cor. 13, so that they would desire it, see that it was better than what they had, to know that love was the answer but it only comes after repenting and realizing that **they needed the power of the resurrection! And so do we...**

Here's where we need to go with this today. One of Paul's helps in 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. was to tell them be like me in 1 Cor. 4 & 11 **as he imitates Christ.**

Paul lived a life comfortable in the world and was secure in his worldview. It produced great feelings of accomplishment for him, but Paul counted it all as loss to the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ as his savior (Phil 3:8). Here's where he went with the knowledge of learning what Jesus did for him through the cross and resurrection.

**Galatians 2:20 ESV**

**<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

God has provided a time for all the world **to kill the things off in our lives that builds faith in ourselves**, those things that we seek too much happiness in, outside of Christ. We must consider our comforts, habits, and humanistic world views as loss because of the surpassing knowledge of God's Faithfulness to us.

The Resurrection Event calls all people to believe and put their trust in who God is not who you are. Will you live by faith in His Faithfulness or will you continue to put stock in your abilities? Jesus gave Himself for your ransom are you ready to give your life to Him as a sacrifice of worship?

Family, friends and guests believe in the power of Jesus as He has demonstrated the faithfulness of God to us, being God in the flesh. Put your trust in Him and be saved. What does the Resurrection tell us to do? Put your Faith in the only being that has ever proven Himself to be faithful to you...





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**PRAY**

**COMMUNION**

**BENEDICTION**

Go in the name of the Father, who has shown to be faithful and true, and someone you can trust with your life.

Go in the name of the Son, that conquered the cross demonstrating the pinnacle of God's faithfulness to us and showing us what's in store for those that believe in Him.

Go in the name and the power of the HS, that helps put to death those worldly things we are faithful to and helps us demonstrate to the world what Resurrection life looks like.