

4/4/21

ATT 55

FB 12

Sermon – The Resurrection

Easter 2021

Scripture – 1st Cor 15:13-19 & 20-26

Main Message: Victory comes through the resurrection of Christ so tell everyone.

Today we celebrate the risen Savior. Praise be to Him. I have found it interesting that the cross is so highly emphasized. It could be because it is a physical emblem of the terrible sacrifice that we can visualize. Don't get me wrong, it isn't that I don't believe that cross signifies a terrible cost for our sins, but if that was all it was then we would have a big problem. We have crosses everywhere. People wear crosses. Churches have crosses. That is a part of the story, but I would challenge you to emphasize even more the resurrection because without it... Well let me read from the Bible.

Read 1st Cor 15:13-19 : Read and emphasize key points.

A Holy and Perfect God needed a Holy and perfect sacrifice. You would not want to stand in front of His Holiness in an imperfect state of mind or flesh. Our sins are covered by the blood of Christ, but even then our eternal life would be in jeopardy if there was no resurrection. I love that my sins are covered. I am re-made for eternity through his resurrection and because in this state, sin no longer has power over me. This also for **all** who believe. Let me read the rest of that section in 1st Corinthians.

Read 1st Cor 15:20-26 – Emphasize key points

Testimonies from many, in the Bible and in other historical records like the writings from Flavius Josephus regarding the risen savior demonstrate the validity of the claims. Jesus spent time in his resurrected body as a witness so that it could not be disputed. He appeared to many as proof of this. Impossible by our standards today. That is why He is our Lord, because the Messiah was empowered to take up his body.

I've told this message before, but it's been many years. The cross is an important part of the story, but by no means is it more important than the resurrection. What symbol can you imagine for the resurrection? It's an empty tomb. It certainly isn't as distinct an image as a cross. Where we see a cross and our sins crucified upon it, the empty tomb has nothing more than a stone rolled back from the grave with no-one in it. The cross defined the propitiation of sin, but new life, *your new life*, is defined by the resurrected Christ, the first fruits of our glorious eternity which God has enabled for us all.

Here is the vital point of this message moving forward in this world. It's hard to make an image of an empty tomb. Though I designed a piece of Jewelry years ago that I know a couple of folks have, it falls short of the mark. In writing this message for today it occurs to me that **YOU** are the living example of the empty tomb, filled with life, joy, and peace and love. You are God's image in this world. The cross you wear reminds everyone of the atonement needed for sin. Your **LIFE**, living for Jesus, is the symbol of **SALVATION**. Go tell someone about that good news by the continual demonstration of that.