

4/17/22

WT 38
FB 8

Sermon – The Resurrection – Easter 2020

Scripture – John 10:9-18, 1 Cor 15:1-24

Main Message – Jesus had the power, and that brought the victory and without it, nothing else matters.

The Messiah came to us in the form of a newborn baby. We celebrate and share gifts in remembrance of that incredible blessing. The Christmas holiday and fond memories that we all have is because of Immanuel. It is celebrated by both Christian and non-Christian alike – mostly because its fun to celebrate and give gifts. People who never set foot into a church to learn about God and to fellowship with others who believe will nevertheless still celebrate Christmas. Don't worry, I'm not here to ruin Christmas for you, but I want to make note of the intensity of the celebration devoted to Jesus Birth. It was a natural birth. Conception of Mary by the Holy Spirit was the miracle. Jesus didn't come out commanding and teaching great things. It was nearly 30 years before we read of those exploits.

Easter, and I'm not fond of the term at all, is much different. Jesus was born in a natural way, and he died in a gruesome, but natural way. What was supernatural was that HE was given the power to take up his life again.

Read John 10

In my meditation on this, it occurs to me that the Resurrection of Christ is the time when we should be giving gifts to one another, having beautiful and traditional songs sung, caroling on the street corners and decorations everywhere to honor Jesus Christ and the incredible gift given to all of humanity. This day we remember the miracle of miracles. If we didn't have this day, all other holidays are for nothing. Without the resurrection who cares if a baby was born? Who cares if a Virgin gave birth? Who cares if some wisemen brought him gifts? If Jesus was not raised from the dead, then everything else is pointless. The Gospel (good news) is not only that Christ was born. Christmas isn't the Gospel message. Its true, God sent his son so that the world might be saved, but through his death and resurrection did it truly happen.

Read 1 Cor 15

The fullness of the Gospel and the power of God is being able to give life even after there has been death. Many of our brothers and sisters whom we have never heard of are waiting for God's plan to come to completion where we will all be gathered together. The Good News is that Christ paid for our sins with his very life *AND* took up his life again. That demonstrates HIS power and HIS Authority over all the things that haunt so many folks – *like what happens when we die*. For those who believe in Christ I'll tell you what happens – Victory in the Name of the Lord.

When people speak, What matters before the "but?" ... Nothing. Same here also, Jesus died, BUT! We have eternal life.