

Theme: Christ has broken the bonds even of death. Therefore we rest secure in Him, for nothing that belongs to Him can be held in bondage either.

Background and Introduction: "The Best Easter Sermon Ever," by T. A. Peter

## I. The Pangs of Death

### A. Jesus felt them!

1. The path to the cross
  - Betrayal, desertion, rejection
2. And on the cross
  - Suffering and agony
  - Bereft of the Father's presence or comfort
  - Tasting death for everyone (Hebrews 2:9)
3. Experiencing death
  - Hung, pierced
4. He was buried (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4)
  - His body rested in the grave

### B. Breaking the bonds

1. God raised Him up!
2. He does not see corruption
  - a. Psalm 16:8-11
    - Pointing to Jesus - not David
  - b. Bearing the curse - Death
    - The Divine wrath of God for sin
  - c. But not the earthly consequence - Decay
    - He did not return to the dust
3. A body transformed
  - Not resuscitation - but resurrection
  - Sanctifying the graves of the saints (Psalm 116:15)

## **Death Cannot Hold Him...**

## II. It Was Not Possible!

### A. If it was possible?

1. No assurance of our resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:13)
2. No hope of heaven
3. Still in our sins! (1 Corinthians 15:17)
  - a. No proof of our justification
  - b. No hope of justification

### **But in fact...**

### B. It cannot keep Him (1 Corinthians 15:20)

1. Christ gives life
  - All life comes from Him! (John 1:1-4)
2. He has life in Himself
  - He Is Life
3. He chooses to give His life and take it up (John 10:17,18)
4. Jesus has Divine dignity

- The union of true humanity and true Divinity
- A body that is indwelt by all the fullness of the Godhead
- 5. His work was done! (Philippians 2:8-9; Romans 6:9)
- 6. God's promise assures it (Acts 2:25-28; Psalm 16:8-11)
  - He will not be abandoned or know corruption
- 7. He must keep His own promise
  - a. He said He would rise (Luke 9:22; 18:33; Matthew 16:21)
  - b. We will be with Him (John 14:1-6)

### III. We've Nothing to Fear

#### A. Not in the world

1. Christ reigns - and will reign!
  - His enemies will become His footstool.
2. In Peter's day
  - Overturning the wisdom of the world (2 Corinthians 10:5)
  - With the foolishness of the cross (1 Corinthians 1:18)
3. In Our Day?
  - How many "ism's" have tried to crush the gospel?
  - Will our faith be outlawed from the public discourse?
  - Are the philosophies of the world winning out?

**What is His will not be held in bondage - any more than He will be held in the bondage of death!**

#### B. Not in your life

1. In this life
  - a. Jesus keeps His word (John 8:32)
  - b. He won't lose what is His! (John 10:27-30)
    - NOTE: Where Christ goes, we go!
    - We died with Him - Colossians 3:3
    - We live in Him - Galatians 2:20
    - We will reign with Him - 2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:6
  - c. No sin can bind your soul
  - d. No trial or sorrow shall bind your heart
2. Or the next
  - NOTE: He has conquered sin and death! He won't leave His children behind!

### IV. What Shall We Do? (Acts 2:38, 39)

Repent - Believe - Receive the Holy Spirit