

Morning Worship April 1, 2018
"Remembering Christ's Resurrection"
2 Timothy 2:8-12

1. Remember Christ's resurrection as historical fact –

Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, (2 Timothy 2:8 NKJ)

... He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. (1 Corinthians 15:4-9 NKJ)

The historical evidence for Christ's resurrection is greater than that for any other historical event –

1. There is more early manuscript evidence for the New Testament than any other ancient writing –

Manuscript Evidence for Ancient Writings

Author	Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	# Mss.
Caesar	100-44 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,000 yrs	10
Plato	427-347 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,200 yrs	7
Thucydides	460-400 B.C.	900 A.D.	1,300 yrs	8
Tacitus	100 A.D.	1100 A.D.	1,000 yrs	20
Suetonius	75-160 A.D.	950 A.D.	800 yrs	8
Homer (Iliad)	900 B.C.	400 B.C.	500 yrs	643
New Testament	40-100 A.D.	125 A.D.	25-50 yrs	24,000

2. This multitude of manuscripts is consistent with what we read in the New Testament and know even from secular history and archeology –

But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. (Acts 17:6 NKJ)

- A. *The Book of Acts shows us the Gospel spreading like wild-fire, Paul was a Gospel-preaching globetrotter –*
- *Paul's conversion was in 36 A.D., a mere three years after Christ's death and resurrection, and he started preaching "immediately" – Acts 9*

Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. (Acts 9:20 NKJ)

- *Paul started a regular preaching ministry in 39 A. D., which he continued until his death in 68 A. D.*
- *His ministry extended to the borders of the Roman Empire, his letter to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians written in 57 A. D., has an entire chapter dedicated to resurrection, which he calls his gospel and was obviously what he was preaching all along!*
- *2 Timothy was the last letter Paul wrote as he was about to die under the order of the Roman emperor Nero.*

- B. *History tells us Nero blamed a great fire in Rome, 64 A. D. on Christians. Paul did not get to Rome until he was imprisoned there. Yet there were enough Christians in Rome by 64 A. D., that Nero not only knew about them but could blame, persecute and light the city with their burning bodies!*

Why would so many believe if there was not a resurrection? They were willing to die! Would you die for a lie?

- C. *Despite the persecution the church grew, 11 of the twelve apostles died horrible deaths, 10 of them martyrs!*
- 3. Combine this with the superiority of their writings, Luke is a top-notch historian, Paul an excellent theologian, their and other New Testament writings fit perfectly with the Old Testament, yet they were writing on the run –*

"Whence but from Heaven, could man unskilled in arts, in several ages born, in several parts, weave such agreeing truths, or how, or why, would all conspire to cheat us with a lie? Unasked their pains, ungrateful their advice, starving their gain and martyrdom their price." Dryden

II. Remember Christ's resurrection as it fits in a spiritual, moral and Biblical world view –

<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> **The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.² The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God. (Psalm 14:1-2 NKJ)**

1. *Today is not only Resurrection Sunday, it is also called Easter and this year it is also April 1st, April Fool's Day!*

I am glad I learned early in my Christian life about worldviews, according to Scripture the fool (the non-believer, unregenerate) has an anti-God worldview, an atheist worldview! Francis Schaeffer called the atheist worldview "a presupposition of anti-supernaturalism" meaning if you cannot touch it, taste it, see it and hear it, it does not exist! The main reason people doubt the resurrection, or count it irrelevant is because we as a people are blind to the Kingdom of God – Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3 NKJ)

Yet, another reason they are blind to these things is because they are walking in moral and spiritual darkness without the light of God's Word –

NUN. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105 NKJ)

2. *How does the resurrection fit in a Biblical World view?*

A. *Death is not the natural end of life, rather it is the moral consequence and punishment of sin –*

"but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17 NKJ)

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- (Romans 5:12 NKJ)

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrew 9:27 NKJ)

B. *Hebrews 9:28, the next verse, tells us why Christ had to die – so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Hebrews 9:28 NKJ)*

C. *We live in a spiritual, moral world ruled by a Spiritual, Moral God, One Who gave us commandments, which we have broken ...*

Our entire world is condemned - But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (2 Peter 3:10 NKJ)

D. *Christ's resurrection is proof God, Christ have gained us a salvation a victory over sin and death –*

"O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 15:55-57 NKJ)

Yet, all this is foolishness to the atheists and bunny worshippers, I found this in an article as I was putting a sermon on sermon audio, this was in it, this is from Planned parenthood –



Those who want to promote such as abortion and a “trans” lifestyle, do so because they are working out of an anti-God, Biblical fool mindset - **The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."** They are corrupt, **They have done abominable works,** There is none who does good. Psalm 14:1

3. *They don't believe in life after death or judgment, not Hell's fires or eternal life in Heaven ... I looked up Easter this week with my Bing search engine, and all I found under "images" were pictures of bunnies and eggs, the same is all around town, at Walmart you can meet the Easter Bunny, at Biscayne Baptist they have on their billboard – Helicopter Dropping Easter Eggs! Even in my email was bombarded by bunnies – Booking.com sent me this picture to entice me to book a hotel or flight for Easter –*



Start hunting for eggstra savings!

4. *In Paul's day, though the church was persecuted, the written Gospel, actual teaching of the Biblical world-view and the resurrection, flooded the market!*

For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** (Romans 6:23 NKJ)

We have a gift of LIFE to offer –

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come **that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.** (John 10:10 NKJ)

Do you want LIFE? Find it in Jesus!

5. *We need to remember, teach and even REVIVE both the Biblical worldview and Christ's resurrection as important teachings in the church –*

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.*² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:1-2 NKJ)

This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. (2 Timothy 2:11 NKJ)

III. Remember Christ's resurrection as God's wonderful provision for our very real problems: SIN & DEATH

Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel,⁹ for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, even to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained.¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.¹¹ **This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.**¹² If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. (2 Timothy 2:8-12 NKJ)

1. *Paul wrote 2nd Timothy from prison. It was the last letter he wrote. He was sentenced to death by Nero and shortly he would die for his faith –*

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. (2 Timothy 4:7-8 NKJ)

2. *Being in prison, where he was, likely was a miserable place! However, he was looking beyond where he was – For we walk by faith, not by sight.* (2 Corinthians 5:7 NKJ)

A. *In prison near death Paul remembered the resurrection, He would have Timothy and others remember!*
B. *He would have us remember as a comfort –*

For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.² For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,³ if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.⁴ For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.⁵ Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.⁶ So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences. (2 Corinthians 5:1-11 NKJ)

3. *We are all in the same place, meaning near death, some nearer than others, we need to redeem the time –*

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16 NKJ)

"Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, death-beds are coming,
Coming for you and for me."
William L. Thompson

We are all close to death, and close to judgment –
And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (Hebrew 9:27 NKJ)

Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power... (Revelation 20:6 NKJ)

4. *Now, a lot will choose an Easter egg, Easter bunny church as they advertise that they meet a strong FELT NEED, their child's entertainment! Some seek such places for their own entertainment, as they cannot find enough entertainment during the week!*

Sin and death, dealing with these are real needs; of course, if you have an atheistic world view, death is just the end of everything, there is no Hell, no Heaven, no resurrection and if atheists are correct –
¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! (1 Corinthians 15:17 NKJ)

Yet, Christ did resurrect and because He did, we who believe in Him, trust Him, follow Him can trust the same for ourselves –

¹¹ This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. (2 Timothy 2:11 NKJ)

And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. (1 Corinthians 6:14 NKJ)

5. *This same resurrection, the Power behind it, God's Holy Spirit can and does work in our lives even now –*

... that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4 NKJ)

- A. *New lives are evidence of the resurrection –*
- B. *New lives are the result of the resurrection –*
- C. *The resurrection of Christ is proof:*

- *Proof He conquered sin – The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.*⁵⁷ But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:56-57 NKJ)

- *Proof God accepted His sacrifice, meaning our sins are forgiven, and should be forsaken –*

"To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities." (Acts 3:26 NKJ)

D. *Resurrection life is something we should set our affections on –*
If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Colossians 3:1-4 NKJ)

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