



COVENANT CHURCH

Easter Sunday 2020

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Main Idea – Jesus’ resurrected body was better than the one He had before the crucifixion. When you accept Jesus your life will change for the better; you will be able to do things you hadn’t done before, and the way you see things will be blessed with a Heavenly perspective.

Celebrate every day as a resurrected day

- Jesus’ resurrection on the first Easter morning is celebrated by all Christians because it opened the door to eternal life with God.
- Salvation through faith in Jesus is a free gift from God.
- Then, it is your choice to determine to grow in that faith every day.
- **John 20:3-8 – Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. (NKJV)**
- John and Peter were intentional about running and seeking Jesus.
- Like Jesus’ handkerchief, a relationship with Him will give order to your life.

Resurrection - metamorphosis

- Your new life with Jesus will be different from your previous life. You will be “resurrected” as if you are born again.
- In the process of receiving this new life a change will gradually take place in your character. You will experience a kind of metamorphosis. You will become a different person.
- After his crucifixion, Jesus was a different person. His body had changed. He demonstrated new qualities of Himself as a human being. **Luke 24:36-43 – Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see,**

for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. (NKJV)

- Resurrection and metamorphosis incorporate power from Heaven. **Matthew 28:2-4 – And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. (NKJV)**
- The first step in metamorphosis is repentance. **Acts 3:19-21 – Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. (NKJV)**
- *Repent*, in the above verse, is the Greek word *metanoeo*, which means to “change one’s mind.”
- Once you have acknowledged the free gift of faith that God has given you, you will want to repent of how you have lived life up to that point. You will want to do things differently.
- That conscious desire to change how you perceive things will enable you to live life differently. When you live a resurrected life with Jesus you will do things you had not done beforehand.
- In the forty days between His resurrection and ascension Jesus did many things He had not done previously. **John 21:25 – And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. (NKJV)**

Overcoming obstacles

- After his resurrection Jesus was still fully human and fully God. Even barricaded rooms were no obstacle to Him. **John 20:19-20 – Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. (NKJV)**
- In your “resurrected” life you will be more at ease with things that puzzled, or

challenged, you previously.

- Peace is the presence of God, not the absence of problems.
- True faith is finding peace you've never experienced before.

New perspective - ascension

- In time, when Jesus returns, you will live with Him in Heaven.
- However, right now - in your new condition as a follower of Jesus - you have access to heavenly understanding. **Colossians 3:1-4 – If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (NKJV)**
- If you lift your hands above your head, and call on God's power, your understanding will ascend above earthly wisdom and knowledge.
- All doubts about natural things will disappear when you call on God to be the source of your thinking and understanding.
- God is with you. He is on your side. He doesn't do things to you, He does things for you. **John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (NKJV)**

Reflective Questions for Easter Sunday 2020

1. Acts 1:3 tells us that Jesus remained on the earth teaching his followers for forty days after His resurrection. Is it reasonable the disciples were better students during this forty days than they had been previously? If so, how might they have been better learners?
2. If you are a new believer, how have you become a better observer of life since accepting Jesus? What do you see now that you did not notice before?
3. What is an example of an earthly circumstance where a believer's heavenly perspective will be different from someone else's?
4. As a believer, if you feel you sometimes still worry about things too much, how might the Bible verses in this lesson help you?