

Welcome to Easter Sunday here at Vertical Church...very special time for our church family

- If you are a guest here with us today let me extend my welcome – Jeremy Hickman
Titled our sermon 'Long Live the King' Full Phrase is '**The King is Dead; Long live the King**'

The statement is designed to show there is never a "gap" in power

1422 following the death of King Charles VI. When his son, Charles VII, ascended the throne
Phrase used to simultaneously announce the death...immediate start of the new one's reign
Isn't this the same thing we could say about Jesus '**The King is Dead; Long live the King**'

Usually, one king dies and then is replaced by another...but that wasn't the case with Jesus

- On Friday our king goes into the tomb...Sunday He rises from dead | **Dead...Long Live**

Big Idea - Find Hope in the King who Reigns Forever

Easter Sunday, we celebrate more than an empty tomb—we celebrate a finished victory

- Many people walked into church today carrying questions, doubts, & even accusations
Am I really forgiven? | Does God hold my past against me? | What if I fail again?

Those questions are not new. In fact, the Apostle Paul addresses them head-on in Romans 8

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Paul doesn't whisper comfort...declares confidence "If God is for us who can be against us?"

That's not wishful thinking—that's resurrection reality...a power statement for the believer

Easter is not just about Jesus rising from the dead...what His resurrection means for you

In Romans 8:31–34, Paul takes us into a courtroom scene:

Who can bring a charge against you? | Who can condemn? | Who has the final verdict?

And then, like a thunderclap of grace, he answers every question with one truth:

Jesus died - Jesus rose - Jesus reigns - And Jesus intercedes for you

This morning, we're *not* just celebrating that the tomb is empty— *Because Jesus is Risen:*

Guilt removed | Condemnation silenced | Standing before God has been secured forever

For the rest of our time...I'm going to give you three truths about Easter...nothing bunnies

1. **Easter is the Assurance of God's Favor (31-32)**

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

- Easter is more than a celebration—it is a declaration – **God is for us!**
- It proclaims that God is not: Against us - Distant from us - Indifferent toward us
- Resurrection of Jesus is God's loud and unmistakable announcement: "*I love you.*"
- a. **Declaration of God's Favor (v. 31) "If God is for us, who can be against us?"**
 - Paul is not raising doubt—declaring certainty. **The word "if" carries the sense of *since***
Since God is for us, no opposition can ultimately prevail
 - This does not mean we have no enemies - Means no enemy can successfully overcome
 - **Easter proves this.** The greatest opposition—sin, death, & hell—rose up against Christ
 - Yet on third day, He rose victorious – **share victory - Kid...bullies...Tyson | Not you...Him**
The resurrection is God's verdict: nothing can stand against you if you are in Christ
- b. **Demonstration of God's Favor "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all**
God didn't just say He is for us...showed it. | Did not spare His Son | Gave Him up willingly.
If God were against you, He wouldn't give His Son for you **Bad things in world...son die**

c. **Deliverance through God's favor "How will he not also w/ him graciously give us all things?"**

- If God gave the greatest gift - He will certainly give everything else we need.

Easter assures: God's Provision is secure | Promises are reliable | Favor is ongoing

The empty tomb guarantees that God will not start something He won't finish
Adopt a child and make them homeless? God doesn't just save you...He keeps you!

Takeaway: Trust God with your needs

With your identity | With your treasure | With your love \ With your life

2. **Easter is the End of Sin's Accusation (33)**

³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

One of the most powerful weapons the enemy uses against believers is accusation

Lay awake: You're not good enough | God couldn't really forgive that | You're still guilty

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? – You do! You bring charges against you!

To understand the weight of this, we have to look at the legal context

- Paul isn't just talking about having a "guilty conscience" Describing a cosmic courtroom

The Accuser: Scripture identifies Satan as the "accuser of the brethren." – **Rev. 12:10**

- **He stands before the bench with a massive file on your life...(Build this up)**

- **Every secret thought, every broken promise, every moment of pride**

The Charges: The law is standard. If we were judged by the law...accusations would stick

We are guilty of falling short of God's glory

The Verdict: Here is Easter miracle. Paul says it is **God who justifies** | **You Can't judge you**

In Greek (justify) is a legal term. It means "to declare righteous."

- Because of the Resurrection, the Judge isn't just **"letting us off on a technicality"**

- He is declaring that the debt has been paid in full and the record is wiped clean.

God—ultimate Judge—has declared you righteous, no lower court can overturn His decision

Easter is the proof: Cross paid penalty for sin | Resurrection proves payment was accepted

If Jesus had stayed in the grave, the case would be clear...you're guilty and going to Hell

- Because He rose, it means: **Debt is paid | Verdict is rendered | Accusation is silenced**

Easter declares something decisive: courtroom of heaven has ruled in your favor

Derek and Bessie Tan – My adoption is final

Takeaway: Get right with the one who is righteousness

Aren't you tired of the accusations? The one's from self and Satan?

- a. **Refuse to enter the courtroom of condemnation**

- b. **Stand firm in your justification**

- c. **Remember Christ's finished work**

3. Easter is the Defeat of All Condemnation (34)

³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

We live in a world that thrives on "the record"...everything's recorded (Cameral 34x per day)

- Credit scores - criminal backgrounds to mental tallies we keep of our own failures
 - We are constantly being measured...job performances...family expectations
- Many of us walk through life with a heavy, invisible weight on our shoulders
- The feeling that we are being watched, judged, and eventually, found wanting

In Romans 8:34, Paul asks a rhetorical question: "Who is to condemn?"

Condemnation = Guilty before God – Under Righteous Judgment – Deserving Punishment

Condemnation should be greatest fear in life...to be found guilty for sin...rightfully punished

What if I were to tell you that there doesn't have to be condemnation in your life?

Romans 8:1 'There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus'

Paul provides a fourfold bedrock of why the verdict against you has been overturned

- a. **Christ Jesus is the one who died** — The penalty demanded by the law was death
 - On Good Friday, Jesus took the full weight of the "guilty" verdict
 - The debt isn't just overlooked; it is paid.
- b. **more than that, who was raised** - Easter is God's receipt of purchase
 - The resurrection is the proof that the Father accepted the Son's sacrifice
 - If Jesus had stayed in the grave, the payment wasn't enough
 - Because he rose, we know the check cleared
- c. **who is at the right hand of God** — This is the position of ultimate authority
 - Old Testament Tabernacle, many pieces of furniture: table - lampstand - altar - **no chair**
 - The priests never sat down because their work was never finished
 - Sacrifices had to be offered day after day, year after year – Jesus sat b/c work was done
 - Jesus is the King who bled and died for you and now sits next to the Father enthroned
 - He sits in the place of highest honor, ensuring the victory of Easter remains permanent
- d. **who indeed is interceding for us** - Easter wasn't just a past event; a present activity
 - Jesus is actively advocating for you...sitting next to the Father declaring His ownership
 - When your own conscience or the enemy brings up your past
 - Jesus points to his scars and says, "That one belongs to me."

Takeaway: Accept the offer of life

Recognize Your Need - Repent - Believe in Jesus Christ - Confess Him as Lord

Receive His Forgiveness and Grace - Follow Him Daily

Big Idea - Find Hope in the King who Reigns Forever

The worship team is going to come back up for a time of reflection

- Shift your allegiance, from yourself or this world, to the King who reigns forever
- Letting the accuser have ground and you need to turn to the one who justifies
 - Repenting of your sin and living confident in his forgiveness.

Maybe there's another step in your faith you need to take

- Being baptized or by joining in fellowship with this

As the worship team plays, I'd like for you to take a moment and consider how God is calling you to find hope or live out your hope in him today...(Pray)

I'd like to invite you to commit to a response this morning...respond in taking next steps

- Registers = Salvation, service, discipleship opportunities
- Welcome center = Baptism, membership, PCCD, small groups, or discipleship groups
- Our Story here after the 10:30 service.
- In 3 weeks is our Celebration Sunday.
- Tithes and Offerings