

PRAYER

Lord God we want to ask that You would be present with us this morning.

We are not seeking to be entertained or educated by You, we are seeking to be loved by You.

We know that our request comes from a broken heart, spoken from a doubting mouth, conceived by a troubled mind.

But your word promises that as we come, and seek Your ways, you will heal our hearts,
calm our minds and fill our mouths with praise.

And so we come. You are welcome here.

Amen.

INTRODUCTION

In 1793 the beautifully gifted Scottish Poet Robbie Burns wrote:

O were my love yon Lilac fair,
With purple blossoms to the Spring,
And I, a bird to shelter there,
When wearied on my little wing!
How I would mourn when it was torn
By Autumn wild, and Winter rude!
But I would sing on wanton wing,
When youthful May its bloom renew'd.

O if my love were yon red rose,
That grows upon the castle wall;
And I myself a drop o' dew,
Into her Bonnie breast to fall!
O there, beyond expression blest,
I'd feast on beauty all the night;
Seal'd on her silk-soft faulds to rest,
Till fley'd away by Phoebus' light!

This poem could very easily be titled "This Changes Everything"

He uses the season of SPRING to wrestle with FALLING IN LOVE.

These are two of my favorite things.

SPRING

- Earth is DEFROSTING.
- Fuzz on trees, birds are singing, squirrels are waking up, grass is turning from dirty brown to green.
- It's amazing. It's like a planetary resurrection. The earth is raising from the dead. Turning back towards the sun.
- Once again Life is full Inew possibilitiesInew opportunities!fresh hope.
- SPRING seems to scream THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING*

LOVE

- When I fell in love light seemed brighter, food tasted better, my heart beat stronger.
- It's like falling in love, and getting married was screaming THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING*

Life is full of moments and seasons that seem to scream THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING*

And as much as we all adore spring/marriage/falling in love/children/Ice Cream/Beating Michigan/Going to the Caribbean they all take place within this thing called TIME on this little blue planet called EARTH, and so every experience and event in our lives is followed by that pesky *.

Because we are flesh and we grow old, the earth is dirt and it grows old, humanity is broken and it at times is corrupt, unjust, unfair. And so these beautiful events, gorgeous people CHANGES EVERYTHING* [for now]

BUT I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU THIS MORNING.

I've discovered a way to remove the asterisk.

If you could open your bibles this morning to the book of 1 Corinthians 15:1-22

PASSAGE

1 Corinthians 15:1-22

Now I would remind you, brothers,[a] of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

This is the GOSPEL, it has the power to CHANGE EVERYTHING.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ CHANGES EVERYTHING.

*It transforming our hearts and minds and in doing so it transforms an * into a . Everywhere/everything/everyone/always.*

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. PERIOD. THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING.IT IS FINISHED.

But for the Gospel to change everything, we need to believe it. ALL OF IT.

Look at v1- 4

We are here this morning to celebrate Christ RESURRECTION from the grave.

Now to make this very clear, this was not some spiritual resurrection, some figurative raising, some poetic or mystical story.

As a Gospel Centered, Bible believing people we confess that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

A PHYSICAL RAISING FROM THE DEAD.

JESUS WAS PHYSICAL, THE CROSS WAS PHYSICAL, THE HUMILIATION WAS PHYSICAL.

To lead someone to the cross of Christ and not point them very quickly to the empty tomb is TRAGIC,HERESY.

To say that the RESURRECTION is not CENTRAL TO OUR FAITH, NOT ESSENTIAL TO OUR FAITH is to preach a QUSI-GOSPEL

your Good NEWS is not GOOD AT ALL.

The story of Jesus without the RESURRECTION reduces our faith to just any other form of SPIRITUALITY, it places Jesus on par with every other failed religious guru, every other failed religion. EVERY OTHER FAILED MESSIAH. DISCIPLES SHOCK.

It's ONLY the resurrection that makes the crucifixion appear like anything other than a horrible end for another failed messiah.

It's not a truth Paul would allow us to believe. Let's keep reading.

The Resurrection of the Dead

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then

those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope[b] in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1. Paul leaves no room for a gospel without the RESURRECTION. v15.
2. Look at v17 God raised Jesus from the dead as evidence that the SACRIFICE was received. Hello BIG BOY.
3. Look at v19 If Jesus is only HOPE FOR TODAY we are to be pitied. FIND AN EASIER LIFE!! HE is more than some ethical/moral teacher. Because of the RESURRECTION we can look into every coffin and not FEAR. He is HOPE FOR TOMORROW.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Our GOSPEL CENTERED world view is COUNTER CULTURAL and at the very center of this rebellious faith is the RESURRECTION.

In the book of Philippians 2v9

"God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Anyone can DIE ON A CROSS, but ONLY ONE was ABLE TO DEFEAT SIN and DEATH.

THE RESURRECTED KING CHANGES EVERYTHING.

Let's be honest here for a moment.

ITS NOT JUST THE BEAUTY OF LIFE THAT CLAIMS TO CHANGE EVERYTHING.

In this life we still experience corruption, sickness, evil, injustice.

Pain/Anxiety/Fear/Failure/Frustration.

EVIL SCREAMS THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. BELGIUM.

It's into THIS that the GOSPEL SCREAMS. I HAVE CHANGED EVERYTHING. BELIEVE IN ME.