

April 2021

## *Church Life*

- If you are a guest with us today, we want to **WELCOME** you! If you haven't done so already, we invite you to stop by our Guest Reception Center in the lobby following the service. Someone will greet you, answer any questions you may have, and give you a gift as a thank-you for worshipping with us today!
- Are you finding yourself in an **unexpected pregnancy** and feeling scared? Do you feel like you have no one you can turn to for help? Here at Grace Chapel, we have a team of people trained to talk with you, listen to you, and give you support and encouragement. We don't want you to feel alone as you think about being pregnant and can't think of anyone to talk to about it. We would love to have you connect with us! You can reach the **Life Team** by calling the church at 616-741-0032 and then press option 6, or you can email our team at [lifeteam@gracechapelzeeland.com](mailto:lifeteam@gracechapelzeeland.com). You will get a confidential response from a team member.
- Men, mark your calendars for **6:30 pm Tuesday evenings (every other Tuesday)** for a time of learning from God's word and sharing with other men at Grace. We will be using the RightNow Media study, "**Be a Godly Man**" by Joby Martin. Bring a friend if you like, and come to be encouraged, challenged, and inspired by how God is changing men's lives through Christ. Dates to save are **March 23, April 6, 20, May 4, 18, and June 1**. (It's ok if you can't attend every session - but even better if you can!) Contact Pastor John for more information [john@gracechapelzeeland.com](mailto:john@gracechapelzeeland.com)
- **Grace Motorcycle Ministry** is starting up in May! Please meet at Grace at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, May 25. At approximately 6:30 pm, the group will leave for a ride and get some ice cream! Plan on arriving back at church around 8-8:30 pm. Invite a motorcycle friend(s) to come along! This is open to men and women and will meet the 4th Tuesday of May through August. Please contact Tom TenHarmsel at [ttenharmsel@gmail.com](mailto:ttenharmsel@gmail.com) or Jim Hill at [jimhill0626@gmail.com](mailto:jimhill0626@gmail.com) with questions. Please sign-up at the scooter table if you are interested.
- **Prayer Team!** Do you have a passion for prayer? The prayer ministry is looking for faithful prayers to join the prayer team and pray before the services on Thursday and Sunday. This involves meeting at the church 1 hour before services to pray for the pastor, staff, volunteers, and all ministries that day. Please contact Beth Webb or Pastor John at [john@gracechapelzeeland.com](mailto:john@gracechapelzeeland.com)



April 2021

The soldiers at the tomb

**Most Important questions you will ever answer?**

**Do you believe Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Do you submit your \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus as the only source of \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Matthew 28: 11-15, The Guards' Report,** <sup>11</sup> While the women were on their way, (mom add a title slide after this so they do not go ahead on me)

**Matthew 27: 62-66, The Guard at the Tomb,** <sup>62</sup> The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. <sup>63</sup> "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' <sup>64</sup> So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first." <sup>65</sup> "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

**Matthew 28: 11-15, The Guards' Report,** <sup>11</sup> While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened.

N.T. Wright said this, "The early Christians did not invent the empty tomb and the meetings or sightings of the risen Jesus. Nobody was expecting this kind of thing. No kind of conversion experience would have invented it. To suggest otherwise is to stop doing history and enter into a fantasy world of our own. A fantasy that would lead to their death...."

**Matthew 28: 11-15, The Guards' Report**

<sup>11</sup> While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, <sup>13</sup> telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' <sup>14</sup> If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." <sup>15</sup> So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

**What do you think happened?**

Life Application

**Take time this week to write down YOUR explanation of Jesus' death and resurrection. Share with a friend and discuss.**



**April 2021**

The soldiers at the tomb

1. Have you ever asked someone this: [Do you believe that Jesus rose from the dead? Because the evidence is available and substantial. The only question is do you believe the evidence or not.] Why or why not?

**KEY INFORMATION:** If you study the resurrection of Jesus outside of the Bible, you will find few scholars who do not believe that a man named Jesus lived roughly between 2 BC and about 33 AD. 99% of historians believe it is because there are so many historical documents that show that Jesus was not a myth but a real person. Historical evidence for Jesus is excellent.

2. Is it possible the reason we don't talk with others about the resurrection is because we don't know enough about it, to discuss it?
3. Christianity was widespread in the Roman empire within 80 years of Christ's death. The accounts we can read, are from eyewitness, not just historians looking back years later. Did you know this?

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

**Do you believe Jesus rose from the dead?  
Do you submit your life to Jesus as the only source of salvation?**

4. If you answered yes to these questions, do you have any responsibility to those who answer no?
5. We are each compelled to decide whether we believe Jesus is truly alive and to live our lives accordingly. What does that statement mean to you?

**READ: Matthew 27: 62-66 & 28: 11-15**

6. Can you imagine being one of these guards? Imagine walking to the city having to explain this? So, does it make any sense that this was made up by them?



*A Quote from Pastor Adam... The Apostle Paul, when speaking about the resurrection said, "You go ask any of these people. They can verify this." Why? Because there were so many witnesses. These are not just people who were claiming to have seen Jesus. These are people that are losing their lives because they're claiming to have seen Jesus. This was people willing to have their wives and children killed to make this claim. A famous theologian Pascal said, "I believe the witnesses that get their throats cut." N.T. Wright said this, "The early Christians did not invent the empty tomb and the meetings or sightings of the risen Jesus. Nobody was expecting this kind of thing. No kind of conversion experience would have invented it. To suggest otherwise is to stop doing history and enter into a fantasy world of our own. A fantasy that would lead to their death...."*

7. Looking at this logically, the evidence is far weightier that Jesus did in fact raise from the dead. So, does this change the way view anything?
8. Did you realize the Jewish leaders paid off the soldiers to lie about what happened?

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

**What do you think actually happened?**

**What is your explanation?**

**How would you tell someone else these facts in history?**

**Life Application**

**Take time this week to write down YOUR explanation of Jesus' death and resurrection. Share with a friend and discuss.**

**A note from Pastor Adam...**The reason why **YOUR** is in caps is because I don't want you to regurgitate what I said. I don't want you to copy something from Google. I want you to digest what the Bible says and other sources and write it in your own words. Because I believe we should all stand ready to explain why we believe what we believe. So, don't blow this off, do it!

