

The Victorious Word
Lester Zimmerman
2019 Easter Message

It is a real joy to worship with you on this Easter morning.

Easter is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. **The resurrection of Jesus is the center point of history and the center underpinning of our Christian faith.** On this day we celebrate the triumphant victory of Jesus over sin, death and the grave.

Our theme this year for Good Friday and Easter is centered around the Apostle John's description of Jesus as **"The Word"**.

Our **Good Friday theme** was ***"Jesus, The Broken Word"*** – He was broken for us. His body was broken on the cross as he took our punishment upon himself, He was broken so we could have forgiveness, broken for our healing, broken so we could have life now and forever.

Our **Easter Theme** today is ***"Jesus, the Victorious Word"***. The one who purchased our salvation on the cross, conquered the grave and rose from the dead on the third day, never to die again.

His victory is now our victory. We walk in his victory and the power of his resurrection. We too can overcome temptation and the attacks of the enemy in our lives and someday we will rise again too.

- Because he lives, we can face tomorrow and eternity with confidence.

In Jewish and Greek thought "The Word" or "Logos" conveyed the idea of "beginning". In the beginning God spoke and his word brought forth life.

John may have been thinking of this when he describes Jesus as "The Word".

He who brings things into existence. The one who speaks and creates life. The one who is not only with God but is God.

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

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John states clearly that The Word – or Jesus – is God. He existed before time and creation. John states that the world did not recognize him as God when he came.

They thought he was an imposter. A deceiver. A threat. So, they killed him to stop his voice.

But even though they killed him and locked up the grave they couldn't keep the Word silent. **The Word rose from the dead and his voice continues to speak to us through the ages.** He lives!! He is still speaking and calling people to himself.

The demons of darkness could not quench the light. The light keeps breaking into the dark places of our world and of our lives. John calls Jesus the true light, the light of all mankind.

The validation or proof that Jesus is the true light – that he is in fact God, is the resurrection.

If Jesus rose from the dead, it would validate his claim that he is who he claimed to be. If the resurrection really happened then Jesus is most likely God in flesh, The Kings of Kings, ruler and judge, the only way of salvation, and is coming back just as he promised.

Everything hinges on the resurrection. It is as if Jesus said; *“I will prove that I am God by rising from the dead three days after I am crucified on the cross. If I am not able to do so – I am a fake. However, If I do, then you need to take seriously my claims and my teachings”*.

The Apostle Paul said Christianity is a big hoax if the resurrection never happened.

Everything we believe hinges on the resurrection. **The cross and the resurrection is the cornerstone to our Christian faith.**

- First generation believers answered the question of why they were Christians with a straightforward answer: *“because Jesus was raised from the dead.”*
- They were willing to be martyred for their faith because they were convinced by the evidence and witnesses that Jesus indeed had risen from the dead, which meant he was who he said he was – God – The Messiah
- I am a follower of Jesus today because I believe he is alive. He is risen. He overcame the powers of hell and gives me that same power in his name.

The resurrection of Jesus is what distinguishes Christianity from all other religions and leaders. No other religious leader claimed to have risen from the dead!

If Jesus was not able to conquer death, then He is no different than any other prophet who gained a following and was buried and is now honored as a dead leader. He would only be a dead prophet among other dead prophets and religious leaders such as Mohammed or Buddha.

Today many people are in search of truth. How can they know for sure that Christianity is the one and only true religion? Why should they believe Jesus claims above the claims of other leaders who claim divinity?

The resurrection is the key! **The resurrection points to who is the truth teller.**

The resurrection is a well-documented fact of history. The resurrection has been documented both Biblically and historically. It is a proven fact that there was such a person as Jesus and that he was crucified and that he rose from the dead and was seen by many people.

Countless lives have been changed and transformed by the power of the risen Jesus.

- **Story of Cymbala**

Multitudes of people have been healed, delivered and set free by Jesus. Whole societies have been transformed by the gospel of Christ.

Lee Strobel an atheist and a journalist became a believer after researching the authenticity of the bible and proofs of the resurrection. In his book, *The Case for Christ*, he shares several implications to the resurrection for our lives today.

- **Since Jesus did rise from the dead, he's still alive today and available for me to encounter on a personal basis.**
- **Since Jesus conquered death, he can open the door of eternal life for me too.**
- **Since Jesus has divine power, he has supernatural ability to guide me and help me and transform me as I follow him.**
- **Since Jesus is who he claims to be, as my creator he rightfully deserves my allegiance, obedience and worship.**
- **Since Jesus loves me as he says, he has my best interests at heart. That means I have nothing to lose and everything to gain by committing myself to him and his purposes.**

Jn 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

Salvation Prayer

Heavenly Father, I am sorry for the things I have done wrong. Please forgive my sins. I now turn from everything which I know is wrong. Jesus, thank you for dying on the cross for me so I could be forgiven and set free. Come into my life and be my Savior and Lord. Guide me by your Holy Spirit as I now live to serve and please you.

In Jesus name, Amen

PROMO:

I want to invite each of you to come back again next Sunday. We will be starting a great two-part series called Life Hacks: **We are going to talk about something we can all relate to. The ups and downs of relationships.** Life happens and relationships can be tough at times. **We are going to explore some very practical ways to improve our relationships and deal with those things that tend to sabotage our relationships**, whether on the job or at home, whether we are single or married. I believe this series will be very helpful for each one of us. I hope you can be a part of it.

Blessing:

May your relationship with the risen Lord, be life and joy to you.

May the same power that raised Jesus from the dead fill you and empower you.

May he enable you to live a transformed life of victory and purpose.

Now, go in peace and walk with the one who died and rose again for you. The one who is coming soon for his children.