

Introduction

"Pent-up Joy"

Rumble Intro (Audio)

1. We made it 2 years!

*woke up 3x's

(1) It's ~~Easter~~ Sunday, which means 3 things at Anthem.

1. Everything is dialed up to 11.

- I'm back in front of an XL podium for my XL personality because I'm dialed up to 11
- We don't have a worship team, we have a worship army
- Today we celebrate a risen chief shepherd, or in Spanish, El Pastor ... we're going from El Pastor to Al Pastor after
- If we run out of tacos, Jesus likes to multiply
- Our attire is dialed up (-bel?)

2. It's Amen Sunday

- A Family event; don't stare; not moving quickly; you forget tired & broken; you can get up & help
Can I get on Amen parents

3. He is Risen

2. What we celebrate

(1) Jesus really died

1. The god-man, a good-man, lived the life you couldn't live
2. On an old rugged cross died the death you should've died
3. Became a substitute in your place, for your sin
4. Imputed / transferred your sin to Him, His righteousness to you.
5. Buried w/ Him is all your sin of the past, all your sins in the future
6. Sins omission, sins of commission
7. Church, it is finished!

(2) Jesus is really risen

1. 1 Cor 15

I. The Importance of Easter

1. It's prominence (v 3-4)

(1) First importance! (Read v 3a)

1. Not whether the tacos are ready
2. Not whether your kids will make it through this sermon
3. Not your job, your marriage, not your investments, not even your career
4. But this! This is the most important thing you can hear (Read v 3b-4)

(2) Why? ↓

2. It's consequence (v 13-14, 19b)

- (1) Without Easter then we are without assurance, without certainty, without validity
- (2) Jesus was just some good men, not God ... His promises were just some good ideas not binding... the gospel was just some good news, not the only hope of salvation unto men/women

(3) And in that case, Christians should be pitied more than anyone

1. Because throughout history, no worldview has produced more missionaries sent out for what they believe, more members sacrifice for what they believe, & more martyrs die for what they believe.

2. Without the resurrection, I'm just Mexican Oprah w/ a beard & Pastor Andrew is just west coast Pr. Phil w/ hair

(4) Christianity is just some good advice, to make good people, feel good about themselves.

(5) Indistinct from Buddhism, Hinduism, new ageism... all the isms where they tell you how to get to God.

1. Christianity is the only one that tells you how God got to you...

(6) Then, Paul the apostle, becomes Paul the apologist... Paul the litigator... brings out a parade of witnesses...

II. The Evidence For Easter (65-8)

1. The Apostles - Peter, James, Paul

(1) Peter, the rock - his testimony is important because much of the early church is built on his authority

1. He was almost certainly interrogated in Rome, tortured in Rome & crucified upside-down in Rome under the Christian oppression of the emperor Nero.

(2) James the Just, brother of Jesus - his testimony is important because he presides over the church in Jerusalem.

1. Every sect of Judaism respected this man.

2. James was stoned to death by religious leaders & according to some testimony not before he was thrown off the temple balcony which failed to kill him.

(3) Paul the Pharisee - led the early persecution against the church & wrote most of NT

1. Beheaded in Rome after a long imprisonment

2. The Twelve

- (1) The 12 disciples, who walked w/ Jesus during his earthly, public ministry.
- (2) Nearly all martyred... all dead!
 1. Andrew crucified
 2. Thomas speared
 3. Phillip put to death by Roman procurator.
 4. Matthew stabbed to death in Ethiopia
 5. Bartholomew flayed alive, then beheaded.
 6. James was beheaded
 7. Simon the Zealot, killed in Persia refusing to sacrifice to sun god
 8. Matthias, burned alive
 9. John died after being exiled to Patmos

3. The 5000 +

- (1) This is how the church grew from 13 obscure adherents to nearly 1.5 billion conversions since the time of Christ
- (2) Nero couldn't stop it in its infancy. Diocletian couldn't stop it in its adolescence. Islamic persecution couldn't stop its spread, the catholic church couldn't stop its faithfulness,
 1. Lenin, Stalin, Hitler, Castro all tried
 2. Secularism won't succeed

More in
last century
than all others
combined ↗

NO PERSON OF SIGNIFICANCE BROKE!

III. The Confidence in Easter

1. Confident in our own resurrection (v51-52)

(1) Death is not Final

1. I+ does not have the final word, it does not have the last say
2. If you have regrets...

(2) Resurrection is not Fable

1. There isn't a part of your life that cannot be recovered or redeemed

(3) Change is not Futile

1. Look at v42

2. Confident in our own transformation (v42b-44)

(1) Jesus changes your treasure

1. Jesus the imperishable treasure

(2) Jesus changes your nature

1. you were dead, unclean, no rights

(3) Jesus changes your posture

1. Those things that make us weak in this life will be lifted & taken

(4) Jesus changes your future

1. Everyone has an eternal future, yours is secure because He is risen

Conclusion (55-58)

1. His victory is our victory

(1) Zach, baseball signing day ... victory in COVID

1. Take that COVID!

(2) Jesus victory over sin, satan & death is our victory over sin, satan & death.

1. Take that death!

2. In a minute, we're going to bring up our worship army... celebrating no other King.

2. Two Years of Joy

(1) Double easter response

(2) Pent-up Joy

1. 3 days pent-up tomb

VIDEO