

April 21, 2019

TIME OF REFLECTION

“The problem with modern people is that they have too much to live with and too little to live for.”

~Os Guinness, author and social commentator

“Human beings are hope-shaped creatures. The way you live now is completely controlled by what you believe about the future.”

~Tim Keller, New York City-based pastor and author

“If we want to live out justice the way God commands and celebrates, we must prioritize the gospel. If we truly want to see human flourishing and reduce global suffering, we need to deal with the biggest problem humanity faces: sin and death.”

~Jaquelle Crowe, Canadian author

“The cynics may be the loudest voices – but I promise you, they will accomplish the least.”

~Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States of America
at the 2013 Ohio State Commencement

“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”

~C. S. Lewis (1898-1963), British scholar and writer

“The Resurrection...is not a redemption *from* the creation but the redemption *of* the creation.”

~Ken Myers, social commentator and former NPR producer

“...[Jesus’s] disciples...devoted themselves to the teaching of a doctrine which was attended with danger to human life—a doctrine which they would not have taught with such courage had they invented the resurrection of Jesus from the dead; and who also, at the same time, not only prepared others to despise death, but were themselves the first to manifest their disregard for its terrors.”

~Origen (c. 185-254), early Christian scholar and leader from Egypt

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “The Audacity of Resurrection Hope...in the Real World” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Romans 8:18-25, 31-39 (NASB)*

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. ²³And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. ²⁴For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it....

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If

God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? ³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.