

April 28, 2019

TIME OF REFLECTION

“If Christ is risen, nothing else matters. And if Christ is not risen—nothing else matters.”

~Jaroslav Pelikan (1923-2006), history professor at Yale University

“The evidence for the resurrection is better than for claimed miracles in any other religion. It’s outstandingly different in quality and quantity...from the evidence offered for the occurrence of most other supposedly miraculous events.”

~Antony Flew (1923-2010), British philosopher and arguably the foremost academic atheist in the latter half of the 20th century

“Precisely because the resurrection has happened as an event within our own world, its implications and effects are to be felt within our own world, here and now.”

~ N.T. Wright, scholar, theologian and retired Anglican bishop

“The definition of hope is that you still believe even when it’s hard.”

~Barack Obama, 44th president of the United States of America

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

~ Tim Keller, NYC-based pastor and author

“...people assumed that increased education would lead to decreased religious belief. Turns out that’s not true and actually, interestingly, if you look at the history of education, Christianity has been an incredible driver of educational progress, ranging from essentially inventing the university to evangelism globally pouring fertilizer on global education and literacy rates because we are effectively ‘people of the book.’ [Many also assumed]...the idea that science is somehow incompatible with Christianity, or has discredited Christianity, so the more scientific people got, so the reasoning went, the less religious they would be. Again, this is a misconception and if we look back at the history of science, it turns out that the modern scientific method was actually invented by Christians as well, not as an alternative hypothesis to belief in a Creator God, but because they believed in a Creator God who was both rational and free.”

~Rebecca McLaughlin, (PhD, Cambridge University) author and activist

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “The Fruit of Resurrection Hope” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

SERMON PASSAGE – *1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-21 (ESV)*

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹ obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls....

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action,

and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. ²⁰ He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you ²¹ who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.