



STEWARDSHIP

WORSHIP SERVICE

4/5/20

GIVING

YTD Goal

\$1,233,525

YTD Deficit

\$69,384

WAYS TO GIVE BEYOND CASH

RMBC App or

Text reedleymbc to 77977



RMBC JOURNAL

REEDLEY MENNONITE BRETHREN CHURCH

WORSHIP TODAY

EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 12, 2020

HE IS RISEN! Even in a time of social distancing and online worship only, we can and must rejoice in the resurrection of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ! Thankfulness is a key component in maintaining the peace of God in our lives. Today, on Resurrection Sunday, we'll look at several reasons we can be thankful Jesus has been resurrected from the grave.

NEXT SUNDAY - APRIL 19, 2020

Rest. We all need it. We all want it. God has designed us for it. And often it is the most elusive commodity for us to grasp in our lives. God has given us the concept of sabbath. But do we take it seriously, and if we don't what are some of the repercussions that follow? Today we'll look at what sabbath and rest is from a biblical perspective, and why this time in our shared history may just be the reset we all need to make the best use of the time we are given. We encourage you to invite a friend to join a watch party in online worship!

OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Line

Would you like to receive our daily Prayer Line? You can via email, through our App, or by calling the Prayer Line at 559-743-7808. Please contact the church office at 559-638-8123 or send an email to kelly@reedleymbc.org.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Missionary of the Week

Otto and Marjorie Ekk serving with Multiply in Portugal. Pray for their ministry through their church plants and shops. Pray for continued harvest, and for God to raise up other workers to join them.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

City of Reedley

The City of Reedley needs help packing fruit bags on Tuesdays from 2-3pm and handing out those bags on Wednesdays from 8:30-9:30pm. Contact the church office at 559-638-8123 to volunteer.

RMBC COVID-19 Response Team

RMBC has established a COVID-19 Response Team to help with the pick up and delivery of groceries, medications, and other needs. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to the Response Team list or if you have a need we can help you with.

STEWARDSHIP

4/5/2020

YTD Goal: \$1,233,525

YTD Deficit: **\$69,384**

GIVING @ RMBC

- Text reedleymbc to 77977
- reedleymbc.org > Give
- RMBC App > Contribute
- U S Postal Service
- Office, Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 5:00pm

WELCOME

We're pleased to have you join us today for our worship service. It's our prayer that you will meet the living God right where you are as we study from the Word of God. We are here to GLORIFY God GROW together as equipped disciples of Jesus Christ, and GO proclaiming His gospel to all. ~ Pastor Malcolm Light

SERMON MATERIALS

Each week, Pastor Malcolm sends out sermon materials ahead of Sunday's sermon. You can find them on our App, or if you'd like to receive these in your email, please contact the Church Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events and programs are currently postponed.

CONTACT DETAILS

Office: 559-638-8123

Email: kelly@reedleymbc.org

Website: www.reedleymbc.org

Address: 1362 L Street

Reedley, CA 93654

Contact Pastor Mike for information on Men's Ministry programs
at mike@reedleymbc.org

Thankful for the Resurrection

1 Corinthians 15

We have much to thank God for, even as we shelter in place. We can thank God we actually have places to shelter in place in. I was speaking with some of our workers in India this past week, and as India is now dealing with coronavirus and shelter in place orders throughout the entire country of 1 billion people, many do not have homes or shelters that they can retreat to and quarantine in. We can be thankful that progress is being made and hopefully our own quarantines will be able to come to an end. We can be thankful for time with family, even if it's been a little stressful. There's much to be thankful for at this time. And I don't know about you, but seeing and naming the things I'm thankful for has a powerfully positive effect on my overall outlook and mental health, as well as my spiritual health and growth.

So today, I want to look at seven reasons to be thankful for the resurrection. I don't know about you, but in the last month, sometimes it's been hard not to lose hope. We see daily numbers of infected in the US going up exponentially. Getting a handle on what this virus is and how to deal with it is a constantly shifting issue that seems to only grow. And we are being faced with the very real reality of mortality and death. More than many of us can remember in our lifetimes, death is all around us and feels at times like it's nipping at our heels from an unseeable foe. And again friends, that and so many other reasons are why it's good for us to take a moment to turn our eyes to Jesus, and with grateful hearts be thankful Jesus is no longer in the grave but is risen.

Seven reasons to be thankful for the resurrection. Look with me at 1 Corinthians 15. The first reason to be thankful for the resurrection is that **the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is essential to the Gospel**. We focus a lot on Jesus' death, and we need to. At Jesus' death God's holy wrath is poured out towards sin, and Jesus takes it all. But sometimes we get stuck on Jesus' death and stay focused there. Paul will say a little later in this chapter, if Jesus died, but stayed in the grave your faith is worthless and you are still in your sins. When we share the good news of Jesus with others, the resurrection is what proves what Jesus did in His life and on the cross is indeed ours as we trust in Him alone by faith alone. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:1, *"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve."* Romans 10:9-10 remind us that if we confess with our mouth Jesus is Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is one of the key truths and beliefs of Christians that sets Christianity apart from every other religion. We do not have a dead founder, our founder is alive, and is living today, and has promised to come again for His people.

A second reason to be thankful for **the resurrection is that it validates Jesus' life, ministry, and deity**. The resurrection was not a small event shared by only a few. Hundreds of people saw the resurrected Jesus. 1 Corinthians 15:6 says, *"Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain."* This is not a small group that sees Jesus, but many. More than that though, we should be thankful for the resurrection because it validates Jesus' life and ministry. Jesus predicts not only His death but His resurrection as well. Matthew 16:21, *"From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised."* I think it's reasonable that someone could predict their death. They could orchestrate things in such a way to bring that about. But to predict resurrection, that's at a whole other level. But here's the thing, if Jesus was right about His death and resurrection, can't He also be trusted about the things He said during His life – repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Believe in God believe also in me. I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will never die. I am the way the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father except through me. I have come to give you life and that more abundantly. Friends, be thankful for the resurrection, it validates Jesus' life - miraculously born of a virgin, it validates His ministry – the miracles were not neat tricks but the acts of the God-man, and it validates His

deity – only God can do the things Jesus did. Romans 1:4 says Jesus was, “... *declared the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead*”. Be thankful that how Jesus lives, what Jesus did, and who Jesus is are all shown to be true and trustworthy because of His resurrection.

A third reason to be thankful for the resurrection is that **announcing the Gospel is made indispensable**. Be thankful that telling others about Jesus, bringing Jesus to other, is given urgency and power because Jesus has been raised from the dead. Paul makes this point by asking what good is our preaching if Christ has not been raised saying in 1 Corinthians 15:12, “*Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.*” Paul’s point is, what are we even talking about if Jesus hasn’t actually been raised. We are preaching a fantasy and a lie if Jesus hasn’t been raised. But friends, the Lord Jesus Christ has been raised. He is not in His grave, He is alive, and He is seated at the right hand of God the Father in power and all authority. The good news we have been given, the gospel we have been given is a message of life and real hope. In this time of uncertainty, in this time of fear, we have the indispensable, the vital, the crucial message of Jesus crucified and resurrected that we must share with others. There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. If you know the risen Lord Jesus Christ as your savior, be thankful today, praise Him today that you know Him, but to hoard that gift to your self – share it, announce it to others. He’s alive! And I’m alive because He’s alive! And you can be alive as well.

A fourth reason to be thankful for the resurrection is that **Jesus’ resurrection reveals that our sin has been truly and fully forgiven**. Again, Paul states this negatively to make the point clear. Verse 16, “*For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.*” Why does the resurrection reveal that our sin has been truly and fully forgiven? Remember a few weeks ago we talked about Genesis 3, and diagnosing our problem – we are sinners, rebels against God, and have been separated from fellowship and relationship with God from our birth. And more than that, as sinful humanity one of the consequences of God’s curse is that we now will experience death, and we experience it as a consequence as a result of our own sin. Jesus dies not to pay the penalty for His sin, but take on Himself the penalty for sin that those who trust in Him have. Jesus doesn’t die for His own sin, 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “... *[God] made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*” Therefore, because Jesus has no sin to atone for Himself, death has no hold over Him. Jesus’ resurrection tells us that Jesus had no sin Himself, so He is a perfect savior for others. His resurrection tells us Jesus actually paid the penalty for our sin, and God actually accepted that payment as satisfaction for God’s holy wrath. And because of this, Jesus’ resurrection tells us that our sin is truly forgiven – Jesus says it is finished! And we are fully forgiven, our sins past, present, and future have all been atoned for and dealt with in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Without Jesus rising from the dead we not only would have never known that, but Jesus would have been like every other moral teacher – just a moral teacher, and not God in flesh who is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. I am so thankful for the resurrection.

Another reason we can be thankful for the resurrection is that **death, our last enemy, is destroyed**. 1 Corinthians 15:20 says, “*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*” In what sense has death been destroyed? I mean, let’s not be foolish. None of us are going to live forever on this earth. We all know there are three inevitable things in life: taxes, death, and awkward pauses. What Paul is telling us here is that being joined to Christ through faith in Him, because Jesus died and rose from the grave, we too will die and rise from the grave. And here is why we can be thankful for the resurrection, for a Christian, death no longer is a fearful thing. It is something we can look forward to because we have a guide in Jesus who has gone before, has made the way, had removed the fear, because he has removed the sting.

Friends, Jesus took the sting of death from us. And if you trust in Him today for your salvation, you have nothing to fear in death. You can face death with confidence knowing that your savior will guide you all the way home. But if you don't know Jesus Christ today, there is still good news for you – you can.

A sixth reason to be **thankful for the resurrection is that we have a living hope now and assurance for eternity**. Look at verse 42, *“So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. Thus it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.”* Peter says it like this 1 Peter 1:3, *“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”*. We can be thankful for the resurrection because it is a living hope for us now. The resurrection matters now in this life, as much as it does for the assurance it gives for the life to come. God promises, if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead wells in you, [this is the Holy Spirit], he who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Be thankful that the resurrection gives you life now and into eternity.

Finally, **we can be thankful for the resurrection because it establishes Jesus is Lord of all and coming back for His own**. Verse 56, *“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”* The resurrection shows Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior over His people, over all creation, and over death itself. And because Jesus is raised from the dead, because Jesus is alive today, where He has promised to come back and take us to be with Him we know that promise is sure and true – and He will do it!

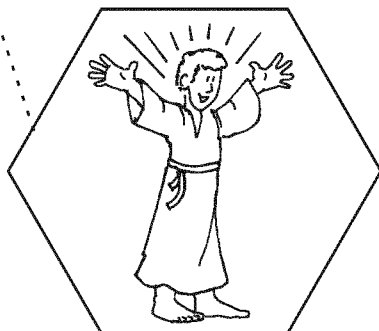
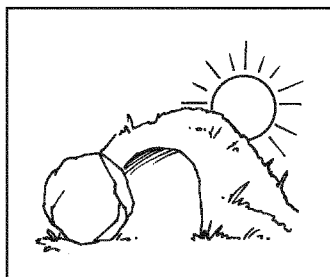
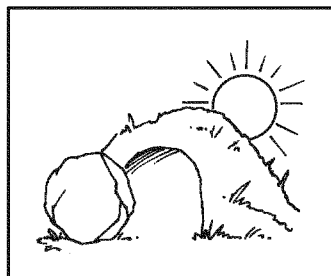
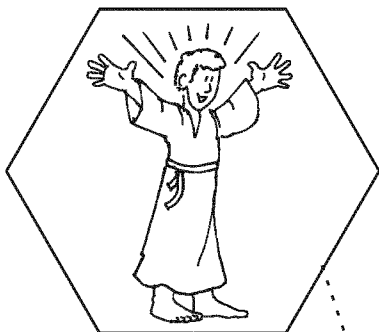
Thankful for the Resurrection
1 Corinthians 15

Seven Reasons to be Thankful for the Resurrection

1. The resurrection is _____ to the Gospel
2. _____ Jesus' life, ministry, and deity
3. _____ the gospel is made _____
4. _____ our sin has been _____ forgiven
5. _____, our last enemy, is _____
6. We have a _____ now and _____ for eternity
7. Establishes Jesus is _____ of all and _____ for His own

He told them not to be afraid. "You are looking for Jesus. ... He has risen! He is not here. ... Tell His followers that He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as he told you."

Match the shapes.



Ages 3+

April 12, 2020 • Mark 16:1-7

Jesus Has Risen

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome were on their way to anoint Jesus' body ... just after sunrise. They asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away?"

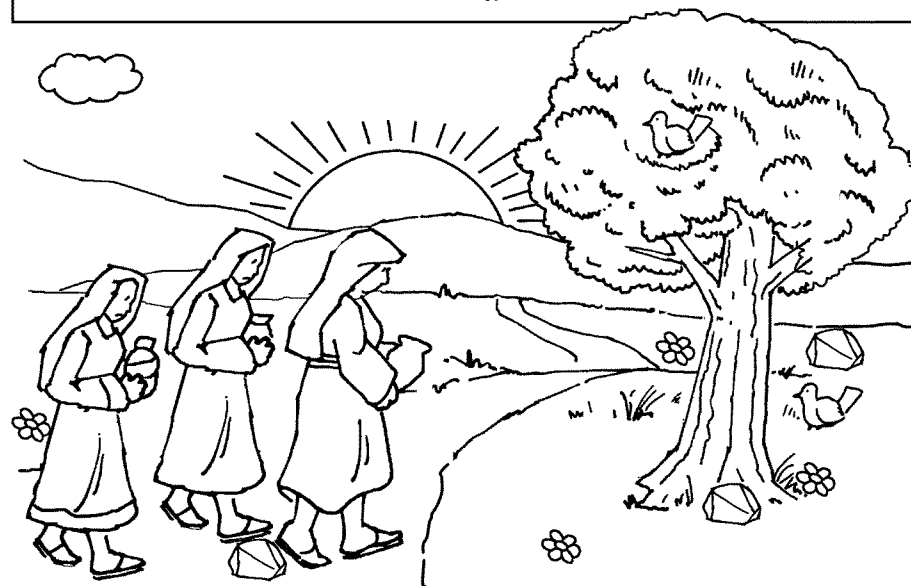
Circle and count these objects in the picture.











Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @
games.childrensbulletins.com

SECRET CODE
NGWKZO

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

Write the letter "o" in the stones below. Trace the other letters.



stone
rolled
away



As they went into the tomb, they saw a young man ... in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were afraid.

Draw an "X" over the picture that is different.

