

*Easter*

*at Grace Chapel*

*The Disinterested*

*The Debater*

*The Devoted*

What does the resurrection of Jesus  
have to do with me and you today?

*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*

**14** And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **15** More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God...

**17** And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. **18** Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. **19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied...

**32** If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

*1 Corinthians 15:14-15, 17-19, & 32*

*“If Jesus rose from the dead,  
then you have to accept all that he said.*

*If he didn't rise from the dead,  
then why worry about any of what he said?”*

*— Tim Keller*

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*at Grace Chapel*

*Preaching is Useless  
Faith is Useless  
False Witnesses  
Still in Your Sins  
Lost Forever  
Worthy of Pity*

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

*John 20:3-5*

*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*



*Looked...*

*But did not go in*



*“Regardless of what anyone may personally think or believe about him, Jesus of Nazareth has been the dominant figure in the history of Western culture for almost twenty centuries.*

***It is from his birth that most of the human race dates its calendars. It is by his name that millions curse, and in his name that millions pray.”***

**— Jaroslav Pelikan**

Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

*John 20:6-7*

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*Went straight in...*

*He saw*

# theōreō

*“To gaze on for the purpose of analyzing.”*

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*at Grace Chapel*

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

*John 20:8*

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*Went inside...*

*He saw*

*and believed.*

To grasp, understand,  
and perceive correctly.

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*at Grace Chapel*



*Resurrection offers  
a New Life.*



You killed the **author** of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

*Acts 3:15*

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*at Grace Chapel*



*Resurrection offers  
a New Life.*

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

*1 Peter 1:3*

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*“Deaths of Despair”*

# The Age of American Despair

Are deaths from drugs and alcohol and suicide a political, economic or spiritual crisis?

Sept. 7, 2019



*“The bosom of God is not a ghetto.”*

— Nikos Kazantzakis

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*“We simply have less appetite for contemplating because we are convinced that there is nothing worth contemplating. Not very disguised in the contemporary mindset is the attitude that ‘we’ve already had a look and we know what’s there!’”*

*— Ron Rolheiser*

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*“Your inability to understand stems from a failure of imagination on your part!”*

— J.R.R. Tolkien

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Imagination and fantasy  
are two different things.

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*“We have healthy imaginations when we can stand before any reality and have a sense of what God is asking of us. A healthy imagination is the opposite of resignation, abdication, naive optimism or despair. It is the foundation of hope. Through it, we turn fate to destiny.”*

*— Michael Higgins*

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Hope is living with  
Resurrection Imaginations.

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Hopelessness is living with  
Petrified Imaginations.

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Petrified Imaginations lead to  
Pessimistic Imaginations.

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*“I never get my hopes up, so I never get let down.”*

— Eeyore

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*at Grace Chapel*

*“Don’t worry about me. Go and enjoy yourself.  
I’ll stay here and be miserable.”*

*— Eeyore*

*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*

*"I was so upset, I forgot to be happy."*

— Eeyore

*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*



*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

*Romans 8:11*

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*“Many young people seem to live hours each day that are almost programmatically reduced to shallow, impulsive dependencies on visual stimulation and technological chatter. The search for meaning has shifted to a compulsive quest for perpetual distraction.”*

— Donald Haggerty

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Since God is not satisfying,  
these other things will give you pleasure.

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*at Grace Chapel*

*“Beholding the beauty that is Christ, contemplating him, is the ‘river in the wasteland,’ the source of life among the distractions.”*

— Joseph Ratzinger

*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*



*“There is a dazzling beauty that does not bring human beings out of themselves into the ecstasy of starting off toward the heights but instead immures them completely within themselves. Such beauty does not awaken a longing for the ineffable, a willingness to sacrifice and lose oneself, but instead stirs up the desire, the will for power, possession and pleasure. Such false beauty would be luxury or lust, and it arises within persons so that it can take and possess its object.”*

— Joseph Ratzinger

From Seeing  
to Beholding  
to Be-holding.

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Resurrection Power moves us  
from Awful to Awe-full.

*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*



*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*

Resurrection offers  
a Future Life.

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*at Grace Chapel*

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die."

*John 11:25*

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Resurrection offers  
a Reconciled Life.

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*at Grace Chapel*

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

*John 3:16-17*

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fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

*Hebrews 12:2*

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Resurrection offers  
a Refreshed Life.

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Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins  
may be wiped out, that times of **refreshing** may  
come from the Lord

*Acts 3:19*

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*at Grace Chapel*



*Easter*  
*at Grace Chapel*



*Resurrection  
Demands  
a Response.*

*“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.”*

— C. S. Lewis

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If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

*Romans 10:9*

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Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.

*Romans 4:7-8*

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*Tomorrow's Freedom*

*Begins With*

*Today's Surrender.*









*Easter*

*at Grace Chapel*