

STONE HARBOR

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He is Risen!

INTRODUCTION

We left this room on Friday with thankful hearts; hearts that appreciated God's faithfulness providing Jesus His One and only Son who took upon Himself the sins of the whole world on the cross where He died. We would be remiss not to pause and with somber reflection count the cost of our salvation, the death of Jesus.

But sorrow gives way to joy as this morning has dawned and we recognize that the grave could not hold Him. He is risen!

- Flowers out of their graves
- Light out of darkness
- Life out of death

I. Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

A. Resurrection Facts From The Gospels

Read account from Matthew 28:1ff-10

Luke 24:6b-11 "...they would not believe"....typical men

John 20-21 (most extensive record)

20:19-21 doors shut.....Jesus came...."**Peace** be with you"

disciples rejoiced...Jesus send His disciples

20:24-29 Thomas....

I'm glad both that there were eye witnesses and that Jesus calls "blessed" those who did not see, yet believed.

(21) Appears at Sea if Galilee, super fisherman, provider, restored Peter to ministry and charged him to tend, shepherd- **Follow Me!**

B. Resurrection Facts From Rest of New Testament

Romans 1:1-4a- Jesus declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection.

1 Cor. 15:1-15- Resurrection = integral part of gospel
17-18- if X has not been raised...

- Jesus taught that He would be raised (Mk. 8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34) and indeed He was!
- Peter's first sermon Acts 2:22-24
- Death could not defeat Jesus! That is.....

C. Great News! Reason For Celebration!!

- The God who promised to bless all families of the earth did by providing Jesus who died in our place so that all who are joined to Him through faith are restored into a right relationship with God. The blessing goes beyond forgiveness to **eternal life** now and after we lay these bodies down. **The grave could not hold Jesus!!**

Jesus was raised, appeared, sent the Holy Spirit to indwell believers, and now sits at God's right hand making intercession for us. Although Jesus' resurrection is worth celebrating in and of itself, I've got to admit I get pretty excited about the implications of His resurrection for us. Not only was Jesus raised.....but we too.....

II. We Will Be Raised From The Dead

- Romans 8:11, Christ raised as first fruits
- 1 Cor. 15:20,23, First, then those who are Christ's at His coming
- Jesus is coming a second time! (Acts 1:4-11; Matt. 24:1-25:46, 26:64; Lk. 21:5-36; 1 Thes. 4:13-5:11)
- 1 Thes. 4:13-18
- Romans 8:29-30, Paul's "Golden Chain of Redemption"
- 1 Cor. 15:53, Mortal puts on immortality

When does all this happen? At the return of Christ. Celebrate that this is in store for us...all who are united to Jesus through faith.

Side bar - What happens when/if I die before Christ returns?

"Intermediate State"- R.C. Sproul, "at death the believer's soul goes immediately to be with Christ."

- Phil. 1:19-26; 2 Cor. 5:1-10

This is good, just not as good as the final state.

Jesus was the first fruits from the dead. Like He was raised bodily so we too will be raised when He comes again. **New and better life out of death!!**

- Our God is good!!

But I got to thinking, in a very real way we get to experience **two** resurrections. The future bodily resurrection we just spoke about **AND** a new life out of spiritual **death** that we experience **NOW** as believers in Jesus. We have been...

III. We Have Been Raised From The Dead

Here's what I mean...

I was born the second son of Nat and Gail Potter; November 1956 (this old body feels every bit it's age).

I was born a second time the adopted son of God; October 1980. When I exercised the faith God had placed in me and I believed in Jesus as the Son of God! Though looking back I am frightened and see only the grace of God for I knew so little of Him.

Jesus spoke of this second birth in John 3:1-8.

Paul speaks of this spiritual new life out of spiritual death. Eph. 2:1-6
(read)

Here Paul calls the life I used to call life = death and he speaks of a new life I had never even considered growing up. It occurs to me...

We can be "dead" and "alive" at the same time.

- I was "dead in my trespasses and sin" according to Christ, while I was alive and kicking according to me.
- I am now dead to my old nature and...
- Alive to Christ- my new life in Christ

Who are you? If you are a believer in Jesus as Son of God as declared by His resurrection (Rom. 1:4) you are:

- born again – "...old things have passed away; new things have come."
1 Cor 5:7b
- dwelling place of God in The Spirit
- a new creation
- adopted son/daughter of God The Father
- sojourner only in this world, true citizen of heaven
- object of the love of Christ
- one who Christ will never depart from (Rom. 8:37ff)
- much loved child of God

Problem: We forget who we are and what we are alive to and dead to.

Solution:

1) The same God who raised Jesus from the dead has caused you to be born again.

2) Know who you are in Christ. 3. Know God's faithfulness and strength. It has always been God in the driver's seat of our faith. He will not fail you.

Conclusion

All this security and good is meant to encourage those who are believers in Jesus. Now don't go taking this as applicable to you if you are not a believer. A believer is one who has exercised the faith God has planted in their heart after He gave him eyes to see and ears to hear truth hidden from the natural mind; after He has revealed Himself to him and called to him, "Come to Me."

If you are not a believer, call on that God you don't believe in on the chance that you might be wrong and that the desire you have to know God and truth might have been placed there by Him. Seek Him, fairly, with a genuine heart to see if He is there. Talk with Christians; ask your hard questions. When God reveals Himself enough for you to trust, believe and become a child of God a new creation through faith in Christ by God's grace.

But, you who believe already.....

- know who you are!
- Remember your life is now in Christ not in flesh
- Remember you will some day be bodily raised
- Bank on God's faithfulness to keep His promise to bless you!!

When I forget who I am in Christ, it's all about me. When I remember who I am in Christ, it's all about God. It is better living in a world that is all about God. Live there!

He is risen!!