

## **Taking God at His Word!**

Before dawn on the third day – Jesus Christ came out of the grave – This time of celebration called Easter is a remembrance, of what Jesus Christ did. He was resurrected so all mankind was redeemed from the sentence of death and hell and given the gift of “eternal life and forgiveness of all sin”

Jesus is pictured at the “Passover” in Egypt when the death angel came and saw the blood on the doorposts – Now when “death” comes it sees the blood on the doorposts of our heart and passes over – we are bought, purchased, ransomed, redeemed by the blood of the lamb of God, Jesus our Lord, our Savior and King.

Mat 28:1-6 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher. 2 And, behold, **there was a great earthquake**: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and **rolled back the stone** from the door, and **sat upon it**. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and **became as dead men**. 5 And the **angel** answered and said unto the women, **Fear not ye**: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: **for he is risen**, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Lets look at the word – RISEN which in its foundational meaning simple says – to AWAKE

### **A COMPARISON -**

The disciples world as they knew it just went south, it was gone. They were fearful - **They cried, what now?**

- Sounds like the headlines of the newspaper of today – our world as we knew it 6 months ago has gone south so it would seem and we are asking the same question, **what do we do now?**
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### **Now here is my point of comment –**

- The disciples had trouble believing that Jesus actually had risen from the dead. –Yet He told them many times They had spent 3 years with Him – day and night – If they had trouble - . . . . . what about us?

Mat 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshiped him: **but some doubted**.

Jesus set forth a precedent –

Luk 24:15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

Luk 24:30 And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and broke, and gave to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. **(Jesus is revealed not recognized)**

I would be hard pressed to find one in this room who did not believe in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. But yet it is possible to find in this room people who struggle with believing that this same Jesus – cannot get me through these times in victory, peace, strength. We say we believe but do we really?

**Our focus must be on God and not on what is going on – yes its real, but God is more real!!!**

Why can we believe some things with no struggle and yet we fight to believe other things from the same source? Just what is the “struggle” we have to believe -

Jesus said I will never leave you or forsake you – and we say we believe this truth, yet our actions, our words, our thoughts many times do not reflect that we really believe what He said.

The disciples believed - -- yet when the storm came and the boat took on water their belief went out the window – In the midst of the storm is where you find out if you really believe!!!

Again our faith in God and in His word is not based on our current level of circumstances or problems.

### **Jesus came to “REDEEM” what the devil stole from Adam and to “Restore” man back to the Father**

**Redemption is:** to buy back, to free from what distresses or harms, to free from captivity by payment of ransom, to release from blame or debt, to free from the consequences of sin

**Ransom** – in full, redeem – to loosen from, to free from the debt owed, the price of redemption.

### **How complete was our redemption?**

A major point to be settled now and forever – **PAID IN FULL!!!**

**Not just your sins – but a full blown, getting back everything that Adam had given away by His disobedience.**

The price that Jesus paid on the cross was a price of **fullness**, no other price; penalty etc. needs to be paid.

- In Him we are – **paid in full!!!** Every sin, every failure, every issue, every lack, every ability, every aspect, every task, every assignment has been paid for in full and is provided.

What in this life, do we need that Jesus has not provided? – **Then why do we not live in what He has provided?**

- Simplistic answer: - we do not believe what He said and in what He did.
- We find it difficult to “TAKE God AT HIS WORD” To trust Him with “EVERYTHING” –
- Because of the influence and presence of **unbelief** –we make wrong choices and the result is consequences we do not like or want in our lives.

Our choices are the key element of contention in our life in Jesus – Right choices or wrong choices.

Our decisions become an acceptance or rejection of the Word of God –

**An example:**

- The doctor writes out a prescription for medicine. We take the prescription (which we cannot read or understand) and we get it filled, by someone we do not know. This person places instructions on the bottle for us to follow. Moreover, we follow them without hesitation or question. We take the Doctor at his word, why can't we do this with God?
- When God says something, our first reaction is usually doubt or unbelief, which is fear based. **WHY??**

Our basic problem is we look at the Word of God as something we are to know, study, learn, or memorize.

Some even look at the Bible as more of a history book than one to live by – **The Word of God is our lifeline.**

**It is our “owners manual”** - The Word of God is what we live by, how we live everyday life.

The Word of God is the “**standard**” by which we measure everything else. It is who we are and it is what we do.

In our love of God we allow Him to give us the “REVELATION” of the word we read and study – The Word revealed is the one we will believe without hesitation or question – It is our lifestyle **standard!**

**AUTHENTICATION** - Lets look at the track record of Jesus (there is no place he spoke that did not come to pass)

- Jesus told His disciples what was coming and what would happen.
- Everything Jesus said would happen, happened – Just like He said.

*The most important thing Jesus said was in **three days – I will arise** – If He did not rise, nothing would change*

*And when I do ALL your sins will be “paid for in full” and all that pertains to the life I purchased for you is YOURS – now, not later, but now. - **This was the key to all that we have and all that Jesus promised** –*

**Now if we can believe that a dead man was raised from the dead over 2000 years ago and do not waver in that belief, then we should have no trouble believing the rest of what Jesus has said.**

Our belief that what happened on that Easter morning really happened, brings “surety” in our lives.

What Jesus did for us, and what He gave us is, because He “**AROSE**” from the grave – He painted the picture for us that all the darkness, hell, death, demons that could be mustered against Him did not have the power, authority or ability to HOLD HIM IN THAT POSITION.

And in like manner we must grab hold of the truth of what Jesus did and the effect it has on our life in Him.

That no darkness, hell, death, devil or demon that is mustered against us can HOLD US IN A DEFEATED POSITION.

**WE ARE REDEEMED AND WE ARE RESTORED TO THE FATHER –**

It is time for us to completely believe and trust God with our total life – To honor Him on this Easter celebration by giving Him what He always wanted and needed, US.