

## A Pastor's Heart

### Encouragement from Pastor McGill

#### What does the Resurrection of Jesus mean to us?

**John 2:19** *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

When Jesus spoke these words to the Jews in the temple, they had no revelation of what He was talking about. They thought He was referring to the physical building that took 46 years to construct. Jesus was speaking of something much more magnificent and much more significant to them than a physical building. It is important to note that Jesus was speaking to people who were regular church attendees and people who read scripture. He was not addressing people who were unfamiliar with spiritual matters. Yet, they had no idea what He was speaking about. I believe this problem still exists in many of our churches today. I will admit that while going to church from my childhood into my early manhood, I had no idea what the resurrection meant to me. I believed it and could quote "He died on Friday and early Sunday morning rose from the dead with ALL Power in His Hands." I loved the emotion and the passion the preachers would put into that message on resurrection Sunday, but still, I didn't fully understand its meaning to me personally. Jesus does not want us to be ignorant concerning our faith. I believe many people have been seduced to various false religions because they did not have a full understanding about the true religion. The true religion is Christianity, as practiced according to the Holy Scriptures. Jesus the Christ is risen from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God Almighty and the Church on earth has been commissioned to carry out His will until He returns. Let's answer the question concerning the Resurrection. What does the Resurrection mean to us?

1. **God's plan to redeem mankind is finished.** Jesus is God's plan and there is no other plan to redeem mankind. Jesus is the only way. John 14:6 The only Way to God is through Jesus. There are not many paths to Him; there is only one, Jesus. If you are waiting on another plan it will never arrive.
2. **The scriptures were validated when He rose from the grave.** The early prophets spoke about the resurrection of the physical body and talked about the Messiah and His suffering. Job spoke of his flesh being resurrected and being assured that his Redeemer lives. Job 19:5 The resurrection assures us of the truthfulness of the scriptures that we read study and live by. We do not have to worry about the authenticity of our bible and what it says. The resurrection laid any doubts to rest. Your power to serve and succeed in ministry and life will rest in your willingness to believe and do what is written.
3. **The meaning of death has changed for the believer.** When a believer dies, he is immediately ushered into the presence of the Lord and will never be separated

from God again. The veil of the temple was torn down from the top to the bottom signifying that God and not man tore it down. Hell and death were conquered by Jesus. Our physical bodies will be raised incorruptible and we will never have to taste death. Jesus tasted it for all mankind. Hebrews 2:9

4. **It changed our position with God forever.** We are now seated in heavenly places with Him, our citizenship is now in the heavens and our final destination is the presence of the Lord. Ephesians 2:4-5 When we fly as a family our children always want us to upgrade our seats to first class. They love the service and of course the seats are much more comfortable. We were blessed to get a free upgrade on one of our vacations and they expect that to happen every time we fly. Using this illustration the Lord reminded me that the resurrection gave us a ticket that we did not have neither could we afford to purchase. It put us on a plane that changed the course of our lives. He upgraded our seats and told us to come higher than first class and sit with the Pilot Who will personally escort us to our final destination. It is ok to shout now. HALLEUIA. Let's celebrate the resurrection continually; not just one day a year, as believers we have a lot to celebrate. Make it a great day.

## **Blessings and Peace**

*Pastor McGill*