

# Death to Life

Happy Resurrection Sunday, the greatest day in history! Today an amazing message of love, hope, and victory is being preached all across the globe. Jesus Christ died for your sins but has risen and is alive!

PRAY - Let's pray for the churches around the world sharing this message right now.

Let's start by laying a foundation for the resurrection.....We are sinners. Notice I said "WE". This means you, this means the person sitting next to you, this means me. We all have a sinful nature and apart from God, there is nothing good about us or in us.

That is reality, if that makes you mad, you just proved the point. If we are all sinners, which we are, we all deserve the same destiny.....death, spiritually and physically.

## **Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

For the wages of sin is death

We have all violated God's law. We have all sinned, therefore we need a savior. You have to grasp the fact that you are a sinner, if you don't then you will never grasp the fact that you need a savior.

This is the reason for the 10 Commandments, to show that people can't live holy, righteous lives on their own. It's not possible for you as a man or woman to live your life without violating these commands that God has given.

In fact we all blow it on number 1.

## **Exodus 20:3 (NKJV)**

3 "You shall have no other gods before Me.

Most people think they are ok on this one because they profess Christianity. When it comes to other gods, don't only think Buddah, Allah, or Zeus, you also need to think money, think self, think work, think sin!

When our God, Yahweh, said no other gods, He means rulers or godlike figures in your life. What dictates your calendar? What rules your life?

Many of you would say, "well, I do of course".....If you are in charge, then how can God be in charge? If you rule over your life, you have set another "god" before Yahweh....yourself!

We have all blown this one, it's not even debatable. I'm not even going to touch on the others this morning but we have blown those as well. Because of our sin, (Rom 6:23) we deserve death.

I know it's hard to swallow the fact that you "deserve" death, but it is what you have earned through disobedience. You broke the rules, therefore you earned the consequences of those actions.

Thankfully, God has a plan. A plan to do what we can not. A plan to redeem us sinners.

**John 3:16 (NKJV)**

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

As Jesus carries out this plan, we see it begin to unfold all the way back at the first Christmas, at His birth. The Son of God, eternal, uncreated, comes to this earth in the form of a human being, so that He can face all the trials and temptations that we do, and He could resist them and overcome them.

This didn't begin on Good Friday, it began at Christmas. Jesus lived a LIFE full of trials.

- He was rejected over and over by the very people He came to save (and still is today...)
- He was accused of crimes He didn't commit.
- He was tempted by the devil.
- He was betrayed by a close friend
- He was denied by most others
- He was convicted of a crime even though the judge knew He was innocent (the people chose a murderer to be release instead)

**Matthew 27:26 (NKJV)**

26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

We can easily overlook a simple word like "scourged". When it says Jesus was scourged, He was stripped and tied to a whipping post. Then He was beaten mercilessly with a whip consisting of several leather strips, each loaded with jagged pieces of metal, glass, or bone and weighted at the end with lead. Flesh would be torn from the back with each blow, many would die during this process.

THEN, after that, Pilate delivered Jesus to be crucified. But we are told that before that, the soldiers would get their "fun" in.

**Matthew 27:28-31 (NKJV)**

28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

It was after all of this they finally led Him to where He would be crucified. At this point He was to carry His cross which we are told in the Gospels that Jesus was so weak in body that Simon took over and carried the cross.

When they arrive at Calvary, Jesus is stripped and nailed to the cross, raised up for all to see.

**Matthew 27:45-46 (NKJV)**

45 Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Here we see Jesus, taking on the sin of the world. We are told that sin separates us from God and here Jesus experiences this separation for the first time. He knew no sin, if He knew no sin, that means He also didn't know what it was like to be separated from the Father. But for a moment, the Father had to turn away.

**Matthew 27:50-54 (NKJV)**

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, 52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

John records that Jesus said "it is finished". Redemption is what was finished!

**Romans 3:25 (NLT)**

For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.

**Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV)**

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

WE ALL NEED JESUS! He reconciles us to God the Father!

Jesus offers us the gift of salvation. A gift is free, it costs you nothing, but it costs the one who bought it for you!

Salvation is offered to us free of charge. It doesn't cost you a thing. But it cost Jesus, He paid a heavy price. THANK YOU JESUS!!!

But that's not all! He was laid in a tomb that was carved out of the rock, a large stone was rolled against the opening, it was sealed, and guards were placed outside to prevent anyone stealing His body.

**Matthew 28:1-10 (NKJV)**

1 Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

The work on the cross made redemption complete. It was there where we could be forgiven. It was there where we were given access to the throne of God.

But the resurrection is where this work is verified and validated! The resurrection shows the Father's approval of the cross. The resurrection is VITAL to our faith. It's not just a bonus, without it our faith is empty or worthless!

**1 Corinthians 15:14-19 (NKJV)**

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your

sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

Christ's resurrection isn't just a happy ending to a sad story. His resurrection is the basis for the very hope that we have, the hope of eternal life!

I want you to get a grasp on resurrection today and what it means for you!

1. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means He is still alive and among us today.

**Matthew 28:20b (NKJV)**

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**Hebrews 13:5 (NKJV)**

5 Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

These bold statements that Jesus made require Him to be alive! The resurrection is for today! It has importance to your very life right now because by this resurrection, Jesus is alive RIGHT NOW!

What good is a dead god?

How much help can you get from a dead god?

Why would you want to follow a dead god?

How would a dead god even know if you were following him?

Listen church, this is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions....we have an eternal, uncreated God who died for us and is ALIVE today!

He promised to be with us always....forever....you know when that ends? It doesn't end! But it would if He were dead! Praise Jesus He is alive seated in glory and power. **He is with you!**

2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that everything He said, every promise He made, every claim He made, is true.

Jesus made a lot of bold promises and claims.

- He forgives sin (Mark 2:10) - By rising from the dead, Jesus proved His authority and power to break the bonds of sin and to assure forgiveness and eternal life to all who accept His gift of salvation.
- He is the give of eternal life (John 10:28) - Eternal life is knowing Jesus....Life, not death
- He is the bread of life (John 6:35) - He's what you need to live...

- He is the giver of living water (John 4:10) - water that is alive...
- He is Healer (Luke 18:42) - how could he continue to do this if dead....
- He is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16) - an action He began after ascension
- He is the future Judge (John 5:22-23) - pretty self explanatory, huh?
- He is the way (John 14:6) You have to go through Him....He leads us to life!

I can go on and on and on with the promises and claims that Jesus made, all which are worthless without His resurrection!

3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means that death is defeated and we never have to fear satan again.

**Hebrews 2:14-15 (NIV)**

14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

**2 Timothy 1:10 (NKJV)**

10 but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

This is our victory! Jesus defeated death. He defeated the enemy. We are joint heirs with Him so what is His is ours. His victory is our victory.

You know satan is not scary? When we have this image of a big terrifying, powerful satan....you realize that is a lie? You realize that if you are in Christ, then you have authority over satan?

The Spirit who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you! The Spirit who has power over satan!

You realize that any power that satan has over you is power that you give him?

4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ means we can have a resurrection.

Our God is not only the give of life, He is the giver of new life, He is the resurrector.

Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose the third day according to the Scripture. And, He is coming again! The dead in Christ will be raised up, and those who remain and are alive at His coming will be changed and receive new, glorified bodies

The resurrection of Jesus Christ demonstrated that the Father accepted Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. It proves that God has the power to raise us from the dead. It guarantees that

those who believe in Christ will not remain dead, but will be resurrected unto eternal life. That is our blessed hope!

**Romans 6:9 (NKJV)**

9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.

Death will not reign over you either....This is not our home....

**Philippians 3:20-21 (NIV)**

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The resurrection of Christ creates the possibility for joy and hope and courage and so much more, because it changes everything.

In the resurrection, we have God's promise that life is stronger than death, that love is greater than hate, that mercy overcomes judgment, and that all the sufferings and difficulties of this life are real and sometimes painful, but they do not have the last word and do not represent the final reality.

Fear and joy, despair and hope, doubt and faith—these are the two sides of our lives in this world. But in the end we have heard the resurrection promise that joy, hope and faith will ultimately prevail.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15**

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.