

## “The Victory of the Resurrection”

Matthew 28:1-10

Pastor Art Hunt

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*Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” <sup>8</sup>So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” Matthew 28:1-10 (ESV)*

### Evidence for the Resurrection

- The fact of the empty tomb
- The eye-witness accounts
- The fact that the first eyewitnesses of the risen Christ were women
- The radical transformation of the disciples

**THE RESURRECTION MEANS THAT EVERYTHING JESUS WAS AND SAID AND DID WAS TRUE.**

*From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. Matthew 16:21 (English Standard Version)*

*But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ . . . 1 Corinthians 15:13-15a (ESV)*

. . . *Jesus our Lord,*<sup>25</sup> *who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*  
Romans 4:24-25 (ESV)

**Application:** Have I allowed the Evil One to undermine my confidence in Jesus? Have I allowed this doubting culture we all live in to push me back from the truth claims of Jesus?

## THE RESURRECTION MEANS THAT JESUS IS A PRESENT REALITY IN OUR LIVES.

*“And behold, I am with you always . . .”* Matthew 28:20 (ESV)

*“I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me . . .”* John 10:14 (ESV)

. . . *For he [Jesus] said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”* Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

**Application:** Have I become less and less aware that Jesus is with me? Do I talk to Him in real time throughout a day, aware of His presence with me? Do I foster an interactive relationship with Jesus?

## THE RESURRECTION MEANS THAT BELIEVERS HAVE A FUTURE HOPE.

*But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup>For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. <sup>22</sup>For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. <sup>23</sup>But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. <sup>24</sup>Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.* 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 (ESV)

## Two Important Words

To show that Jesus and His people will one day be personally present to each other in resurrection life.

- “coming” = *parousia*
  - See 1 Corinthians 15:35-55.
  - *Though our outer self is wasting away . . . this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory.”* 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 (ESV)

“appearing” = *phaneros*

*And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.* <sup>3:2</sup>*Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.* 1 John 2:28; 3:2 (ESV)

[As we live for God, we are] *“waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. . .”* Titus 2:13 (ESV)

**Application:** Am I living in the light of Christ’s appearing? Is my perseverance lagging? Is my joy at a low ebb? Am I immersed in lesser pursuits and forgetting what it means to love God and love others?