

4Ws

The Reason For Our Hope

APRIL 17, 2022

WORSHIP

Endless Praise,
In Jesus' Name,
God So Loved,
Worthy of It All,
All Glorious, I Exalt Thee

WELCOME

Have you ever had false
hopes in your life?
What made you realize
they were false hopes?

WORD

MATTHEW 28:1-7

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the tomb. ² And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. ³ And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook from fear of him and became like dead men. ⁵ And the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him; behold, I have told you."

We live in a world with an overabundance of information and a lot of fake news! But let's focus only on truth that will transform our lives.

Hope is one thing that we need in our lives today. The message of resurrection is all about hope. Jesus Himself is our Hope that brings life when we can't go on living.

Matthew 28:1-10 tells of the resurrection of Jesus. "He is not here for He has risen. Jesus is alive!" (**v.6**), because Jesus is alive, we can live.

I. WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION MEAN?

Why people today celebrate something that happened over 2000 years ago? It's because it's the greatest news the world has ever had!

In Jesus' time, many followers who listened to His teaching and saw His miracles; did not truly understand that Jesus is God. It was the resurrection which reignited their faith. The resurrection of Christ is more than an accepted historical fact. Jerusalem and the Roman Empire knew that Jesus rose from the dead; people saw Jesus physically. This was real news.

The Resurrection means **JESUS IS ALIVE**.

He Proved His Claim to be God

Jesus declared that He is the resurrection and the life (**John 11:25**) before He was crucified. He also declared: "I and the Father are one" (**John 10:30**); I'm the only way to heaven (**John 14:6**); and "I'm the Light of the world" (**John 8:12**).

He claimed to be God and His resurrection proves to us that claim is real (**John 2:21-22**).

John 14:6 is an exclusive and powerful claim. Jesus is the only way; He is the truth; the One who brings eternal life. Even if people don't believe Him, it doesn't change the truth. God became man—Jesus—when He came to earth, so that we would come to know who God is like.

Jesus' message is exclusive because He alone gives salvation. It is inclusive because everyone in the world can call upon His name.

He Showed His Divine Powers

Jesus proved He is God. He can do anything and everything God can do (**Matthew 28:18**).

He has all the power in the world (**John 10:18**). The same power that raised Jesus from the dead will open hopeless prison doors holding us back in life. Jesus is the real power that gives us hope.

He Fulfilled His Promises

Jesus promised that He will come back to life (**Mark 10:34**). Indeed, Jesus rose from the dead (**Matthew 28:5-6**)! When He makes a promise, we can be sure that He will keep it.

Jesus proves His promises by what He does. Jesus can always be trusted. He is exactly who He said He is. He will always do what He says.

The greatest man in history had no servants, yet they called Him Master. He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher. He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer. He had no army, yet kings feared Him. He won no military battles, yet He conquered

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the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him. He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today. His name is Jesus.

II. WHY DOES THE RESURRECTION MATTER?

What difference does the resurrection make with all that we're going through in our life today?

The Resurrection proves that **JESUS IS ALMIGHTY**.

He Forgives My Past

Christ has done away with our sins on the cross (**Colossians 2:14**). He was innocent yet He paid for our sins. We don't have to pay and keep nailing ourselves to hopelessness, fear, doubt, and despair because of our past. He cancelled our sins against Him and others.

Jesus offers forgiveness. He wants to cleanse every heart from sins when we truly repent and surrender our lives to Him. We don't have to live with guilt and doubt anymore. His death covers all our sins with His precious forgiveness so that we can have a clean slate and a brand new start (**1 John 1:9**).

Jesus wants to help and change us by giving us new life, clear conscience, and a great beginning (**John 3:17**).

He Controls My Present

God wants us to avail of the same power that enabled Jesus to rise from the dead (**Ephesians 1:20**). This is the power that will help us out of our crisis. The resurrection power of Jesus is available to all who believe Him.

We can't control our present situation but it's not out of Jesus' control. No problem is too big or beyond His power to handle. We are ready for anything NOT through the power of positive thinking nor when we psych ourselves up. We are ready for anything through the strength of Christ who lives in us.

He Secures My Future

One of the problems we all share is death. No one wants to die but only a fool will live his life unprepared for the certainty of death. People are so busy with the here and now that they don't stop to think about their life after death.

The Bible's description of heaven is unimaginable, more than paradise! Heaven is perfection. The only way one can go to heaven is to have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Bible says Jesus is the source of eternal life (**John 17:3**) and that a Christian is someone who has a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

But many people still try to go to heaven through many different ways.

Fake News say that salvation is by sincerity, good works, ritual, heritage or comparison.

Real News is: Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus alone (**Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Peter 1:3-5**).

Jesus is our hope; you don't have to fear anything anymore, even death. The resurrection grants us a living hope. Jesus is our hope because He gives us peace with God. He doesn't want us to focus on religion, but on our relationship with Him. God wants you to come back to Him (**Isaiah 54:7**) no matter your background or what is happening in your life now.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

How have you "resurrected" from your past life since you committed your life to Jesus?

2. Setting It Right.

How does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope in the midst of your troubles?

3. Living It Out.

How does Jesus being Alive and Almighty change your thoughts, actions, and attitude?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to be reminded of Jesus Christ, the reason for our hope beyond the Holy Week celebrations. Reach out to someone who is in a "hopeless" situation in their life now. Share the true message of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus who is the reason for our hope!!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- For God's sovereignty to be on display over our upcoming national elections; godly, competent leaders to be voted into government posts at all levels.
- For the Russian invasion of Ukraine to stop; peace and order be restored, lives spared. Russian and Ukrainian soldiers, families, leaders to turn to Christ; refugees be given safe passage into surrounding nations.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 11:25

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies.