

Easter, Resurrection Sunday, April 20, 2025

Review & Intro:

What is easter all about? Why is it the highpoint of the Christian calendar and religion? Easter is not some pagan holiday that was coopted by Christians and renamed. I don't care about bunnies and eggs but am also not committed to them either.

Today the focus is on what we are celebrating: namely, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. "He is the firstborn among many brethren." Rom 8:29; 1Cor 15:20 "If Christ isn't raised from the dead, your faith is **worthless**, and you are still in your sins." 1Cor 15:17 Christ's resurrection is the hope that we have for our own resurrection and the resurrection of those who have died before us. Paul tells the Thessalonians in 1Thess 4 to "**comfort** one another with these words."

I. Christ's Defeat of Sin, Death, and the Devil. –"Christus Vicor" Ireneus 130-202 disciple of Polycarp who was a disciple of the apostle John.

- Victory over sin (Rom 6:1-23): As we read, notice the connection to the death and resurrection of Christ.
 - -**Penalty** -Death (Past justification) 1-7; harrowing of hell
 - -Power -Enslavement (Present sanctification) 8-20
 - -**Presence** (future glorification) 21-23
- Eschatological **salvation** from hell (Rev 20:14-15)
- The devil is **chained** (Rev 20; Col 2:14-15; Heb 2:14; 1Jn 3:8)

II. Christ's Ascension and **Enthronement: reign over the nations (Ps 2, 110; Acts 1-2)**

- Kings and rulers
- **Governments** and governors
- People without regard to nation, tribe, tongue or any other distinguishing characteristic.
- **Christian Nationalism** is simply a acknowledgement of this and an attempt to put such a thing in place. You know, like the early puritans and Presbys did in the establishment of this nation. People get all up in arms about this topic. All that is really meant is that we want our leaders and everyone to be obedient to Christ. Bottom up and top down. It's not either or, it's both and.

This really is just an acknowledgement of Christ's rule and reign over all. It is about His universal kingship over all creation. That we wouldn't want godly government means that we want a wicked and unjust government. It really is binary. It's Christ

or chaos. There is not middle ground. The assumed existence of some neutral territory is wishful thinking at best and a grand demonic delusion at worst. Neutrality doesn't exist in Biblical categories. There is the kingdom of our God and His Christ, or there is the domain of darkness. The international liberal order and post war consensus is part of the latter.

We say "yes!" and "amen!" to Psalm 2 and 110 and the gospels and all the rest. We reject the morally bankrupt ideas of liberalism and man centered worship of most evangellyfish wanna be churches. We spurn the neutering of society and instead see the protection and provision of godly men as wonderful thing where people can flourish. We abhor the destruction of female beauty and twisting perversion of women looking like and acting like men. We believe that a gentle and quiet spirit is a wonderful and attractive jewel of God's design displayed in femininity. We believe children are a gift from God, not burdens or worse yet, inconveniences to be discarded. They are future kings and queens, being raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Christ rules over all. Christ is King over culture.

We've seen Christ's victory of sin, death and the devil, His rule over the nations, and now...

III. The Mission of God: God is doing something. He is not just up in heaven hanging out. God is not the heavenly hippie grandpa. He is actively reconciling a people to Himself. He is working. He tells us to do the same. Christianity is unlike the eastern religions that focus on inactivity. Christianity builds things because God is working. Christianity is redemptive and transformative because God is moving and working. For examples of this, see the following:

- Cultural Mandate (Gen 1:26-28)
- Purpose of Israel – "light to the gentiles or nations" (Ex 19:6; Is 42:6, 49:6, 56:7; Lk 2:32; Acts 13:47)
- Coming of Christ and the Kingdom -The KOG is here, at hand.
- Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20)
- Sending of the Spirit (Acts 1:8) empowering the mission. The Father sent the Son. The Father and the Son sent the Spirit. The Spirit has sent us. We are the plan of God now incarnated on the earth to do His bidding. Our existence is not some mundane rat race but rather a holy mission with eternal consequences. It is not just existence but it is the ushering in the rule of the redeemer. We are not just

getting by but we are getting on with the putting of all things under the feet of Christ.

-We must be infusing our everyday tasks and commitments with this meaning. We must romanticize everything for the kingdom. It is all animated by this truth of the mission of God. Jesus rose from the dead and we have people that can't even get out of bed. When you're on mission, you have a certain mental focus and urgency. When you're distracted, you are taken off the mission. The mission of God does not allow for extended periods of grief or depression. We do grieve as seen in the beginning passage of 1Thess. 4 but we don't grieve as those who have no hope. The Lord Jesus rose from the dead and He will raise our loved ones as well. When we are on mission, we keep our focus calibrated and get on with the purpose of life. Marriages, and family, and work, and recreational activities are not ends in and of themselves, they are to be missionally focused and guided. We build strong marriages, and families, to build strong churches, and societies and businesses and nations FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

This is bigger than you and me and whatever we have going on in our own little worlds. This is KINGDOM business. Here at MRC, we are not playing around. We expect men to act like men and to step up and be bold. We expect men to lead and love and leave a legacy. We expect women to help and respect their husbands and to do the crucial work of shaping the next generation of warriors. We expect children to obey their parents and grow up to be mighty men and women of the faith, outpacing their parents. We expect young people and young adults to mature and make waves for the cause of Christ, hoisting His banner high, living the great adventure. We expect them to love and marry and reproduce and raise up more ICBMs for the kingdom.

We are not playing around. This is serious business. This is our Father's world. That should sound exciting and invigorating. If you're constantly drained and without energy, fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, despising it's shame

Conclusion:

Christ's resurrection provides the existential and theological foundation and framework to **build out** the kingdom of Christ on earth, today.

Application:

1. Get in **gear**. Be engaged. You don't have time to waste. There is a mission. Put down the video games and other mindless scrolling. Put up your phone and be present and be on purpose. Reject passivity and mental masturbation. Stop checking out. Check in. Be present. Understand what God is doing and get on board.

Stop sinning. Pursue Christ and His kingdom. Live holy and godly lives on mission. Raise adults not kids. Have a missional marriage. Live the great adventure. I have people all the time saying, "slow down, take it easy, be patient." No! Reject passivity. Run harder, faster, longer, trusting God for strength and endurance.

2. Be **strategic**. Be mindful about the situations you find yourselves in. Cultivate the life of the mind and work and family and politics. Be strategic. Do things on purpose not haphazardly. You don't have resources to be wasted. Steward them well and employ them on purpose. Be active but be smart.
3. Do it **now**. There is a sense of urgency and purpose. No time for distractions or drama. You were put here in this place, at this time in history, on purpose. Quit putting things off. Get in gear, on purpose and do it NOW. Slow bedience is no bedience. No fooling about. No putting things off. No jacking around. No delay. Do it now.

The time is nigh. You were created to be here right now. Jesus is alive! Get to work.

Closing prayer: Father, help us by Your Spirit to be people on mission, for the sake of Christ. Heal our wounds, strengthen our resolves, make us one in purpose. As we welcome these who have come for baptism having confessed their faith in Christ alone for salvation, seal in their hearts and consciences the work of Your Spirit. In Christ's name, Amen.