

EASTER SUNDAY! (3/31/24)

PASTOR LEE

God's Wisdom,
Glory
&
Love

- THIS IS RESURRECTION SUNDAY!!! BECAUSE JESUS IS ALIVE, WE CELEBRATE!

1Cor 2:7- But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which Gos decreed before the ages for our glory. (8) None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (9) But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love Him."—

- LET'S LIFT UP THE NAME OF THE RISEN LORD AND SAVIOR!

The Crucified
Christ is
Risen!

- *The resurrected Jesus re-appears, first to the women at the tomb and later to the apostles and hundreds more.*

- *And the word spread everywhere.....'HE HAS RISEN'accelerated as Peter relayed to Mark (his assistant) who, taking all of his first hand experience, recordedfor the ages.....the amazing happenings surrounding the Event(s) we now celebrate 2000 years later.in what we know as the Book of Mark...an essential and accurate recording of this "Good News" (Gospel) of Jesus Christ.....including his momentous , horrid death and miraculous resurrection that would forever change the course of humanity.*

- *In Mark 16:1-6 , he recounts the entire scene beginning with the three women's absolutely shocking discovery of the empty tomb and the angel's instructions to tell the apostles AND PETER "HE HAS RISEN"! What amazingly "GOOD NEWS"to the women, the Apostles, and all His followers.*

"Father,
Forgive
Them"

- *But.....recounting Jesus' prediction and Peter's emphatically, genuinely and over-confidently expressed loyalty AND his ensuing three denials of Jesus (Mark 14:27-31 and :66-72)would it, indeed, be good news for Peter? Recognize the horrible, horrid torture of Jesus during Peter's denials of Jesus as well as this Apostle's own very over-confident self-identity..... and the locking of Peter and Jesus' eyes in the midst of all this. Imagine Peter's internal tension/conflict, fear and crushing self-disappointment!*

- *All followed by the most awful, horrid and indescribable events of Jesus' actual crucifixion concluding with Jesus' words from the Cross: "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM"! Jesus went to that Cross as one who never sinned.....and on that Cross, He took on all the sins of the world (past, present and future) and all the deserved punishment for the aggregate of all these sins!*

So Worthy
of Our
Trust!

- *Pastor describes the subsequent events following Jesus' removal from the Cross, the courageous intervention of Joseph of Arimathea who arranged for Jesus' body to be released, appropriately prepared/wrapped in linen and buried in his veritably inescapable tomb whose entrance was blocked by heavy stone.*

- ***WE ARE HERE THIS MORNING BECAUSE THREE DAYS LATER, HE CAME OUT OF THAT TOMB ALIVE!!!!!!!***

- *And, here's what we know: you cannot trust your life after death to someone who has not had life after death!!!*

Without
Jesus,
Peter--And We--
Fail

- Back to Peter....one moment in complete devastation, embarrassment, ,crushed, humiliated...promises unkept....BUT...the angel said: "go tell the disciples AND PETER"! There was a great message of forgiveness and acceptance for Peter AND a great message for all of us who also make promises about and to God that we do not keep!!!! And we also rationalize, in our self-assessment, that, while 'not perfect' (we DO sin), we think we're "pretty good" and should be acceptable to God.
- But Romans 6:23 says: "For the wages of sin is death" (but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ our Lord). The price of any sin is death.....it separates us from Him! Rom 3:23 says "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- Rom 5:8- - "But God shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, CHRIST DIED FOR US!"
- So every time we fail Him...come up shortremember, Jesus died in our place.....Peter may have failed (like us)....but Jesus didn't and doesn't! WE NEED A SAVIOR! JESUS!
- His empty tomb lets us know that when He said "Father, forgive them", that He had the power to overcome death....to erase that separation from God.... because of that Resurrection! It means Jesus is alive and that what He said ("Father, forgive them") is true.....speaking to His foreknowledge and power.
- The empty tomb also means that...even with "three strikes" Peter wasn't "out" ...and neither are we!!!

With Him,
Peter--And We--
Are
Forgiven!

Because
Jesus
Redeemed
Us!

He Is The
Answer!!

2 Cor 5:21- God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

- So, the one who is holy, sinless, perfect...that is, God himself, took on OUR sins (every human being!), as if He- -not us- - had committed those sins....all so that He could offer forgiveness to each of us.
- MESSAGE: like Peter...like ALL of us....we are all sinners...we have ALL fallen short...yet God commended His love to us....that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us! In response and on this Resurrection Sunday, Pastor Lees's heart is that ALL commit their hearts and lives to Jesus! He is the only answer.....to life, forgiveness, freedom from sin and the only source of eternal life!!!

HE HAS RISEN!!!! COMMIT TO HIM!!!!