

4Ws Resurrection Sunday

NO REGRETS : BE INTENTIONAL

APRIL 4, 2021

WORSHIP

Victory in Jesus,
The Precious Cross,
Crown Him With
Many Crowns

WELCOME

How did you spend
the holidays (Holy
Week)?

WORD

JOHN 11:17-27
(READ FOR FULL CONTEXT)
1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important foundational truth of Christianity. Our faith will stand or fall depending on this amazing truth. This is so important that **Romans 1:4** tells us, Jesus Christ “was declared the Son of God with power by the **resurrection from the dead...**” The question is this: did Jesus die? Did he rise again from the dead? Is this something we can believe in? We are told of three respected lawyers (Lord Darling, Chief Justice of England, Simon Greenleaf of Harvard, and Lee Strobel who was a former non-believer), who, despite their expertise and previous disbelief, have come to embrace the resurrection as TRUE. As Lee Strobel said, the resurrection is “... **the basis of Christian hope. It’s the miracle of all miracles.**” If Jesus did not rise again from the dead, then everything we are hoping for is useless – even our faith is useless! When it comes to Christianity, we have a “**living hope**” (**1 Peter 1:3**); it is a certainty, it is guaranteed by God Himself, because Jesus died and rose again from the dead. Jesus was able to comfort two sisters – Mary and Martha – with this amazing truth. These sisters experienced deep sorrow and regret at the passing of their brother Lazarus. Their regrets were expressed to Jesus in **John 11:21** and **32**. “**If only you had been here...**” indicates regret and disappointment. The truth is from time to time, we ALL experience great disappointments, great sorrows, and above all, great regrets. How did Jesus comfort Mary and Martha and help them process their deep sorrows?

Jesus told them, “**I am the resurrection and the life**” – in other words, there is no problem so big, there’s no situation so helpless and hopeless, that Jesus Christ cannot do something about it. The best is yet to come, provided that we know who Jesus is. If Jesus rose from the dead, then all His claims and promises are true! We can put our hope in Him because He will never disappoint. How do we live a life of no regrets? We must remember the **K.I.S. Principle**, which teaches us to **BE INTENTIONAL**.

1. KNOW THE TRUTH

We must know the truth intimately because **TRUTH MATTERS!** Destination is never determined by intention, but the **RIGHT** direction. The only way to be able to do this is to be intentional in knowing the truth. Like the example we have heard last Sunday, airplanes that travel with deviation of at least 2 degrees from the original route will end up miles away from its true destination!

The Bible reminds us that we must understand the truth. In **1 Corinthians 4:1-2** Paul wrote about the role of a Christian. We are called **SERVANTS** of Christ – a Greek word (**HUPERETES**) used to describe the lowest ranking rowmen of a boat/ship. The next word used is **STEWARD** (**Gk. OIKONOMOS**), which describes a manager responsible for the duties assigned to him by the master-owner. We are managers of the truth – **the mysteries of God** – spiritual truths that were previously hidden but now revealed. **Ephesians 3:2-7** further elaborates this point: it speaks about the privilege that we now have as “**fellow heirs and members**” of the gospel. It is a privilege indeed to be entrusted with this great truth, and we must be faithful stewards of God’s truth.

Part of this truth is about **LIFE** and **DEATH**. In **1 Thessalonians 4:13**, Paul talked about why we need to know the truth about life and death. He uses the term **SLEEP** (**Gk. KOIMAO**) for death, and encouraged the Thessalonian believers to not grieve as the rest of those who do not have this hope – because for believers, if our loved ones who are in Christ pass away, we will be saddened, but in the midst of sadness, there is peace & joy because of knowing that they are now with the Lord. This same word was used by Jesus to describe what happened to Lazarus in **John 11:11-14**.

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APRIL 3, 2021

WORD

Earlier in the first few verses of **John 11**, we see that Jesus received the news that Lazarus was sick. Mary and Martha sent messengers to ask Jesus to come saying, **“he whom You love is sick”**. But what is amazing was this – when Jesus heard that Lazarus was sick, He said in **v.4** – **“This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.”** In **v.7**, they finally visited Lazarus, who has been in the tomb for 4 days already. Even so, Jesus was not caught by surprise. In fact, in succeeding discussions especially with Martha, Jesus expressed that He is **“the resurrection and the life”** and that **“everyone who believes in Me will never die”** (**vv. 25-26**).

When Jesus finally visited the tomb, he asked Martha to have the stone removed – and with hesitation Martha said **“there will be a stench”** (**v.39**) and Jesus reminded them to **BELIEVE**. It was evident that Martha and probably the others knew certain truths about Jesus, but have they internalized it?

2. INTERNALIZE THE TRUTH

Jesus’ words in **v.40**, **“Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”** – is a reminder that He wants us to believe **in the heart**, and then we will see the glory of God. For many of us, our faith is something like this, **“to see is to believe”** ... but when you believe something from the heart, God is saying, **“you believe, and then you will see...”**. How do you know you believe from the heart? You display **OBEDIENCE**. Jesus introduced Himself so well and was even willing to show His power when he called Lazarus out of the tomb (**v.43**). This meant that **Jesus is Lord and is sovereign over life and death!** Can you think of a greater power than that? There is no greater power demonstrated than giving life to the dead – and that was made possible by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 4:14** explains that the basis of our hope is the fact that Jesus died and rose again. Believers also have access to this amazing promise of resurrection. Furthermore, the Bible tells us that when we die, our souls are immediately placed in the presence of God, and our physical bodies are asleep. When Jesus comes again, your soul and your physical body will be placed together again – a glorious moment described in **1 Corinthians 15:51-53!** This fills us with **HOPE** that our mortal bodies will put on immortality. That’s why it is so important that we must know the truth, we must internalize the truth, and **we must SHARE the truth.**

3. SHARE THE TRUTH

Remember the story of the rich man in **Luke 16**? He spent his life on earth for his own pleasure without realizing that after death, his final destination was a place of unending anguish (**v.24**). Even with his regrets, he desired to reach out to his relatives (but that was not possible anymore) or even send somebody else to warn them (**vv.27-28**). As you can see the greatest regret will be not preparing your soul for eternity – for the inevitable – which is death, after which we face an accounting with God. While on earth, Jesus offers us the choice of whether we live for Him or apart from Him in this world; our decision will determine our eternal destiny--with Him in eternity or an eternity without Him in torment. The second greatest regret will be if you know the truth and you didn’t share it with others. That’s why later on, in **Luke 24:44-48**, Jesus reminded His followers of their role as **WITNESSES**. If this is great news, this is meant to be shared with others. What’s so great about this news? **2 Cor. 5:17** reminds us that we are **“new creatures”**, renewed by God’s grace because of the death and resurrection of Christ. We must therefore be **“steadfast and immovable”** (**1 Corinthians 15:58**) living a life of **INTENTIONALITY** and doing our best to spread the truth we embrace in Christ Jesus – our Resurrected King!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. Self-Check.

In what way does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope?

2. Setting It Right

Despite the real and lasting benefits of the resurrection, what habits and sins of the “old self” do you need to confess to God and be set free from right now? Draw near to Him in prayer and pinpoint specific ways for you to avoid these things.

3. Living It Out

How will you share the truth about Jesus Christ to the people in your life?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for conviction of hearts and minds to live an intentional life for the Lord. Send a Bible verse or encouraging message or extend material help to someone who is going through a difficult time. Share to people who fear death the hope and assurance that Jesus conquered death—He rose from the grave. He lives and so shall anyone who believes in Him.

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

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

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



52 Week Scripture

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² In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2