

12 April 2020

Resurrection Sunday

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Today we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. In order to grasp the significance of this day, we need to look at why Jesus had to die on the cross and what happened when He rose from the grave.

Romans 3:23

“...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”
“Almal het gesondig, en het nie deel aan die heerlikheid van God nie...”

Nie een van ons kan se “ek het nog nooit gesondig nie” ons almal het al. Dis maklik om te se “eks ‘n goeie mens” of “eks nie so sleg soos daai mense nie,” maar die realiteit is dat ons nooit veronderstel was om onself te meet teen ander mense of die wêreld se standarde nie. Ons moet onself meet teen die Bybel se standarde. Wanneer ons dit doen, is dit duidelik, nie een van ons maak dit nie... ons almal het ‘n redder nodig.

We all need a Saviour. Not just to save us from hell, but to reconcile us with God, our Father.

This Saviour had to be blameless, sinless. And so, Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth. He lived the life we should have lived and then willingly, took our place on the cross.

He died for our sins. On the third day, He rose from the grave and doing so, He conquered sin and death.

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Hoekom het Jesus deur al die pyn en leiding gegaan vir ons? Die antwoord is eenvoudig, Hy is lief vir ons. Vir elkeen van ons.

Because He loved us, Jesus destroyed the sin that separated us from God, so that if we repent and believe in Him, we may have eternal life. He made it possible for us to be reconciled with God, to become sons and daughters of God. This is the Good News: Jesus, our King, is alive!

John 14:6

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

He is the way, the only way. Not with all our money, our achievements or best efforts could we qualify to enter His perfect presence. It is only through the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. He is the only way.

He is the truth. Yes, the world is in a storm of chaos, but the truth is that Jesus is our prince of peace. He gives us peace during this storm. Yes, people are scared, but the truth is, we don't have to be, for Jesus is greater than this storm.

Even though this virus has changed our lives, the way we work, the way we interact with others, it cannot and will not change who God is or what His Word teaches us. This is the truth: Jesus is victorious.

He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Though people are dying because of the coronavirus, we can rest assured knowing that not this virus, nor anything else for that matter, can steal the eternal life we have in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

By rising from the grave, Jesus overcame death, sickness, and sin. Now, we as children of God can share in this victory.

1. He has defeated the grave - We do not have to fear death, for when we die, we will enter the eternal presence and glory of God in heaven.
2. He has defeated sickness and disease – even the coronavirus must submit to the authority of Jesus Christ.
3. He has defeated sin – Now we no longer need to be slaves of sin, for we can live in the freedom that Christ has won.

He is victorious, and since we are in Christ we can boldly proclaim:

Romans 8:37

“...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

“Ons is meer as oorwinnaars deur Hom wat vir ons liefhet.”

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives*

Family, may we celebrate Jesus Christ, our King, for He is alive!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

- Warm-up: What has been positive about the past week? Any good news? What are you thankful for? Have you got a testimony of what God has done?

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

- How does it feel knowing that God loves you?
- Can you say with confidence that you have eternal life?

Jesus died and rose again so that we can have a relationship with Him.

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you describe your relationship with God?
- What can you do to improve your relationship with Him?

Romans 4:25 “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

- Why do you think, does it matter that Jesus was raised from the dead?

Romans 6:9-11 “For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

- What do you think it means to be dead to sin?
- Jesus died so that we can be free from sin. Is there any sin that still has a hold on your life? How can that be changed?

Isaiah 53:5 “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

- Jesus defeated sickness and disease on the cross. Who do you know that needs healing? Take two minutes and pray for them.

Romans 8:37 “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

- We are conquerors because Jesus conquered the grave, and we now live in Him. This is part of our identity. During these times of uncertainty, how would you describe the attitude of a conqueror?

- How can we align our attitudes with God's will for our lives?

Prayer:

- Pray for each other, friends and family.
- Pray for the unsaved. Pray for our nation.