

## **Bibles???**

### **The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority**

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been very adamant in stressing the importance of the resurrection.

The Resurrection is the cornerstone of our Christian faith. Without the resurrection, there is no hope.

Without the resurrection there is no Christianity.

**[1Co 15:12-18 NKJV] 12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that**

**there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if**

**Christ is not risen, then our preaching [is] empty and your**

**faith [is] also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses**

**of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up**

**Christ, whom He did not raise up--if in fact the dead do not**

**rise. 16 For if [the] dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith [is] futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.**

Paul was preaching to the church in Corinth and there were many that were going around and preaching that there was no such thing as the resurrection.

This morning, we are going to look at the resurrection as we finish the Gospel of Mark.

**Let's pray...**

**[Mar 16:1-20 NKJV] 1 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary [the mother] of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first [day] of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3**

**And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away--for it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 "But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." 8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. 9 Now when [He] rose early**

on the first [day] of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. 12 After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. 13 And they went and told [it] to the rest, [but] they did not believe them either. 14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 "He who believes and is baptized will

**be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with [them] and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.**

**Verse 1**

## **Now when the Sabbath had past –**

For the Jews, according to the Mosaic Law, they were restricted from doing any work on the Sabbath. That was one of the Ten Commandments that was given to Moses.

**[Exo 20:8 NKJV] 8 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.**

You might remember during our studies through the Gospel of Mark – that Jesus violating the Sabbath is one of the accusations that the religious rulers brought against Jesus during His ministry.

**Jesus had the audacity of healing people on the Sabbath –**  
and in the eyes of the religious rulers, healing people was considered work.

Not only were the Jews not allowed to work, they were only allowed to walk a certain distance before it was considered to be “work”

You might remember me showing you guys a picture of a Shabbat elevator in Israel – where the managers at the start of the Sabbath, on Friday at sundown, would enable the elevator to automatically go up and down and stop at every floor so that the people wouldn't have to press a button – because pressing a button would be considered work.

Now, the insight from this statement,

“Now when the Sabbath was past,” for all of us is that it is a powerful statement letting us know that the old covenant – the old Jewish system of sacrifices, keeping the Sabbaths

and following a list of do's and don'ts; all that ended at the Cross and was replaced by the power of Jesus' resurrection.

Church, we are saved by grace, through faith in the risen Lord.

It is not by works.

"The Sabbath was past."

Don't return to it, thinking you can somehow 'keep' a set of rules and rituals that are required for you to either attain, or to maintain, your salvation.

Many times, we don't draw close to God because we feel that we have to somehow clean up ourselves.

The problem is that we cannot do it alone.

We are incapable of cleaning up ourselves. **But He can.**

The only work required is to believe in Jesus.

So these women here in verse 1, they have to wait to the end of the Sabbath – which is sundown on Saturday, so that they can go buy spices and take them to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

Now, the fact that they purchase spices tells us that they themselves didn't believe that Jesus was going to rise on the third day.

If they did, they would have taken lawn chairs to the tomb – to have a front row seat of Jesus exiting the tomb

But, instead they had spices that they were planning on pouring over a dead corpse.

So on Sunday morning, before the sun had risen, they set off toward the tomb with their spices – and we see here in verse three that they are discussing among themselves how are they going to be able to remove the stone that blocked the entrance to the tomb.

Many theologians believe that that these round stones weighed about one ton. It would sometimes take twenty men to roll away the stones that covered some of the tombs.

So these women had a genuine concern regarding how they were going to gain access into the tomb – after all, the disciples were not going to provide any assistance as they had been in hiding since the time that Jesus was arrested at the Garden of Gethsemane.

The gospel of Mark provides us with the details about how the stone was rolled away.

Turn with me to Matthew 28.

**[Mat 28:2-4 NKJV] 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead [men].**

So Matthew tells us that an angel came down and rolled away the stone from the opening of the tomb.

Now, it is important to note that the stone was not rolled away so that Jesus would be able to get out – we are told in

the Gospel of Luke that after His resurrection, Jesus was able to walk through walls.

The reason that the stone was rolled away was so that His disciples (and the world) would be able to see that the tomb was indeed empty.

**[Mar 16:5 NKJV] 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.**

Who is this young man? It is an angel.

The gospels of Luke and John record that there were two angels. However, the gospels of Matthew and Mark only chose to focus on the one angel that speaks to the women.

Many skeptics will point out that the accounts show contradictions – when in reality, the four accounts of the gospels complement each other as they each provide details that help fill in the missing pieces.

**[Mar 16:6-7 NKJV] 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 "But go, tell His disciples--and Peter--that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."**

Now, the Greek word that is used here in verse 6 and also in verse 5 for alarmed can be translated as troubled or marveled.

It could be that the women were alarmed at the sight of the angel, or at the sight of not finding the body of Jesus in the tomb or a combination of both.

But, I want to focus on what the angels declare to the women.

- **You seek Jesus of Nazareth**, notice that the angel didn't say, you seek Jesus the Son of God. The women were still seeking the man Jesus.

If they had been seeking the Jesus the Son of God, they wouldn't have been carrying spices to anoint the corpse.

They wouldn't have been standing there alarmed because they would have remembered His promises.

- **Who was crucified**, the angel provides the women with a verbal death certificate. Jesus was really, really dead when they laid His body in the tomb.
- **He is risen**, Jesus is alive. Notice how the angel stated that Jesus **was** crucified yet here the angel emphasizes that Jesus **is** risen. And to this day He is still risen, reigning at the right hand of the Father. Just like He said He would.
- **He is not here**, The angel encourages the women to see for themselves, to consider the evidence that Jesus was not at the tomb.  
The gospel of John tells us that the linen cloth that Jesus was wrapped in laid neatly where Jesus was laid and

that the handkerchief or the shroud that was placed over His head was folded neatly by itself.

So the tomb did not resemble my kids room when they come home from school with clothes all over the floor.

- Go tell the disciples and Peter – the women immediately are given a mission. To tell the disciples the good news. Church, this speaks of God's grace – for one thing, the women had missed the truth of the Resurrection. They came looking for dead Jesus, not risen Jesus yet God still chose these women as vessels because through them, He will receive the greater glory. The message they were to tell the disciples and Peter – that Jesus was going to meet them in Galilee and restore them – just like Jesus had told them back after

the Lord's Supper where Jesus told each one of them that they were all going to abandon Him that very night.

And noticed how the name of Peter is emphasized.

Peter is the one who told Jesus that he was the exception, that he was not going to abandon Jesus like the rest of them, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You."

That is when Jesus tells Peter that within a few hours he was going to deny Him three times.

Yes, this same Peter was also going to be fully restored. I can envision Peter when he heard the news from the women.

"Did he really include me – did he really say the name Peter? After what I did?"

I imagine the joy that came over him.

That is the love of God, He knows us and He loves us and He wants all of us to be fully restored.

You see church; the resurrection guarantees us forgiveness and insures our fellowship with Jesus.

Mark now provides us with three post Resurrection appearances before His ascension.

Let's look at the first one again.

**[Mar 16:9-11 NKJV] 9 Now when [He] rose early on the first [day] of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.**

**10 She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And when they heard**

**that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.**

There are many sceptics who will make proclamations that the resurrection was something that was totally made up many years later.

One of the reasons that I have a very hard time with that is that the person that Jesus appears to first is Mary Magdalene.

If you were going make up the events of the

Resurrection, why would you use a woman as your very first witness as evidence of the Resurrection.

**The testimony of any women in those days was considered unreliable.**

In fact when you read verse 11, we see that the disciples themselves did not believe her testimony.

So here Mark tells us that Mary Magdalene is the first one to see Jesus after the Resurrection. In the gospel of John, he tells us that Mary thought that Jesus was the gardener at first.

And she has a conversation with Him until Jesus calls her by name and then she realizes that it was Jesus.

Now, let's take a look at the next group that Jesus appeared to.

**[Mar 16:12-13 NKJV] 12 After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. 13 And they went and told [it] to the rest, [but] they did not believe them either.**

These two are the famous disciples on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24)

And if you read Luke account, Jesus comes across these two disciples who are having a conversation about what had just transpired with the death of Jesus and Jesus tags along with them and joins in their conversation yet – they didn't know it was Him.

Jesus then provides them with the most extensive bible study telling them how the scriptures point out that everything that had happened had to be fulfilled.

And it was until they broke bread with Jesus that their eyes were opened and they realized that it was Jesus who had been talking to them the entire time.

They go tell the other disciples but again, they did not believe.

**[Mar 16:14-16 NKJV] 14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.**

**15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.**

For three years, the disciples heard the word of Jesus that He was going to die and rise again, these 11

disciples saw the empty tomb, they were told by Mary

Magdalene and the two disciples that walked with Jesus

on the road to Emmaus that Jesus was alive yet they still didn't believe.

Church, always remember that our disbelief does not alter the facts. Jesus is risen.

In the same way that the disciples had access to the evidence – we have access to His word.

We have the Word of God that He is risen.

We see the empty tomb.

We have credible testimony from millions throughout the Church Age that Jesus transforms lives as we are born-again.

From verse 16-18, God has promised us that He alone will equip us for this ministry.

We are to rely on His power, not our own power.

[1Co 1:27 NKJV] 27 But God has chosen the **foolish things** of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the **weak things** of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;

I asked you to underline foolish and weak things.

Write your own name above foolish and weak.

He could easily do it on His own, but He wants us to be a part of it. He desires that we become vessels for His glory.

Now, I want to take a look at the response from the disciples.

**[Mar 16:19-20 NKJV] 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with [them] and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.**

The disciples were obedient to the commission Jesus gave them and they did go out and preached everywhere. Many of them preached while facing persecution and many were martyred because of their preaching.

However, noticed the order, they first preached everywhere and then it was eventually confirmed through signs.

Unfortunately, we live in a time where we are constantly looking for signs, constantly looking for that religious experience and the problem with that is that it eventually leads to a shallow faith.

So the question this morning for us is what is our response to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

You see Jesus having to die on the cross for you and me and His Resurrection are all part of God's response.

The bible says that [Rom 6:23 NKJV] **23 For the wages of sin [is] death, but the gift of God [is] eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

That cross that Jesus hung on was ours. Yet He took our place because of the love that He has for you and me.

That was the payment portion of God's response.

What about the Resurrection???

**[1Th 4:14 NKJV] 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.**

If the cross was the payment for us, the Resurrection is the receipt, showing that the payment was perfect in the sight of God the Father.

Amen.

Let's pray...

*To Receive Christ do the following:*

*Admit, "I am a sinner."*

*Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.*

*Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.*

*Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.*

*Dear Lord Jesus,*

*I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I*

*believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please*

*forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I*

*accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give*

*me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of*

*my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.*

