

## Resurrection Life

Last week we celebrated Easter and enjoyed one of the appearances of Christ to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. As they talked to Jesus they were unaware of who He was- the same Jesus they had known, followed and saw crucified.

They lamented His death as they explained,

“The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel...” (Luke 24:19-21).

When these words were spoken it was Easter Sunday, after Jesus had risen. They had already heard from the women about the empty tomb and the angel who spoke to them that Jesus had risen from the dead. But they weren't open to delirious rumors, because they'd seen Him die. *“Game over; all hopes are lost.”* Later as Jesus explained the Scriptural view of Messiah, they recognized Him.

What we believe about the future affects how we live in the present.

Their hopes were gone and the Jesus they had known was just another *prophet*.

### **Two things they had to understand:**

Their Messiah (a conquering deliverer) was a false Messiah.

The true Messiah had to suffer to deliver mankind from their sins.

Afterwards Jesus explained to the disciples in Jerusalem,

“...Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day...” (Luke 24:46)

### **When will it be safe to dream again?**

When you have the right dream.

When your trust is in One who will never let you down.

Someone has aptly written,

“Better to fail in a cause that will one day succeed than succeed in a cause that will one-day fail!”

If our dreams are of this world only, then they are destined to fail.

One day Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor of the early church, met the living Christ. Years afterwards he wrote these words,

“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that he was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

(1 Cor. 15:1-8)

## I. The Primary Message

Paul said he was making this gospel message known to them.

He Preached it.

They Received.

They Believed.

They were Saved by it.

It is God’s power that saves us and keeps us saved.

If we are holding onto Him, it is the evidence that He is holding onto us.

Salvation isn’t casual faith; it is faith that holds on. Jesus said that it is those who abide in His word, who hold fast the word, who are truly his disciples.

Jesus’ death on the cross bridged the chasm of separation caused by sin.

When He rose on the third day, He abolish death, making us come alive.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by Grace you have been saved).

(Eph. 2:4-5)

Faith makes: the uplook good, the outlook bright, the future glorious

## II. The Priority Message

Substance of the Gospel:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received,  
 that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,  
 and that he was buried, and that He was raised on the third day  
 according to the Scriptures,

The priority message of the gospel is simply stated: 'of first importance.'

### **Gospel = Good News**

Doors come in all sizes but all will open with the right key.

#### **1. The first key is sharing the good news is the message itself.**

Sometimes we give people every message but the gospel.

Christ's death, burial, and resurrection

We may answer every question they don't ask, but do we give them the gospel?

Paul arrived in Corinth and purposed to preach only one thing: Christ crucified.

Paul wrote that he was not ashamed of the gospel,

"...for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes,  
 to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:17).

Remember that in order for people to believe they must have the gospel.

How will people believe unless we share the life-giving truth of Christ with them?

Remember to give them Jesus

#### **2. The second key to sharing the good news is Prayer.**

Paul wrote to the Colossians,

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak." (Col. 4:2-4)

#### **3. Patience is another key.**

When Jesus clarified the biblical view of Messiah to the disciples they struggled with their previous understanding. Just prior to Jesus' ascension His followers were still confused about this,

“So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying,  
“Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?”

(Acts 1:6)

Use the Scriptures to give people a Scriptural view of Christ.

– “according to the Scriptures”

“What you win them with you win them to.”

James Boice

#### **4. The final key is to give them Jesus**

Jesus’ letter to the church at Laodicea ended with these words:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock;

if anyone hears My voice and opens the door,

I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me”

(Rev. 3:20).

### **III. The Proven Message**

...and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time,

most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.”

“Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”

(John 20:30-31)

Eyewitness

Experiences of the miraculous: Your testimony of how Christ changed you.

We are living epistles known and read by all men.

You are part of the Gospel message.

Each generation of the church in each setting has the responsibility of communicating the gospel in understandable terms, considering the language and thought-forms of that setting.

[Francis Schaeffer, *Escape from Reason*]