

SERMON NOTES

Resurrection and New life

Have you followed Jesus beyond the Old Testament, beyond the Baby Jesus, beyond the Great teacher, beyond His Crucifixion, and into His Resurrection?

1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV) Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Philippians 3:10 (NKJV) that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Billy Graham: "There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three."

Andrew Murray: "A dead Christ I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "After death something new begins, over which all powers of the world of death have no more might."

C.S. Lewis: "[Jesus' resurrection] has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so."

New life is essential - but how do we do it?

Have you ever tried to turn over a new leaf? It's hard.

Christianity is different from **Islam, humanism, New age**, etc in that it says you can't do it on your own.

Trying harder on it's own does not work because we have been cut off from the power supply and tainted by sin.

Christianity says you need a whole new thing, and the old thing must die.

At Easter we remember Jesus' death but also His miraculous resurrection. This is the key for us to change and get a new life.

There are 3 important parts to this process:

1. A seed Must die- how do we do that? Baptism
 - Romans 6.
 - **2 Timothy 2:11 (NKJV)** - This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him.
2. New bodies are completely different - spiritual - you are not only what 5 senses can see
 - Mirror of His word. Spiritually discerned.
3. We are like Him and will be just like Him - how to live in that tension

1 Corinthians 15:35-49 (NKJV): 35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

36 Foolish one, what you sow is **not made alive unless it dies.**

37 And what you sow, **you do not sow that body that shall be**, but mere grain--perhaps wheat or some other [grain.]

38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

39 All flesh [is] not the same flesh, but [there is] one [kind] [of] flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, [and] another of birds.

40 [There are] also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial [is] one, and the [glory] of the terrestrial [is] another.

41 [There is] one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for [one] star differs from [another] star in glory.

42 So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. [The body] is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power.

44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit.

46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.

47 The first man [was] of the earth, [made] of dust; the second Man [is] the Lord from heaven.

48 As [was] the [man] of dust, so also [are] those [who are made] of dust; and as [is] the heavenly [Man,] so also [are] those [who are] heavenly.

What was resurrected Jesus like?

- Pure - clean, and victorious over sin, accepted by God
- Victorious over death, devil, hades - all things under feet
- Eternal, spiritual being - timeless
- Still had physical characteristics - eat etc

1 John 4:17-18 (NKJV) **17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.

Ephesians 1:18-2:6 (NKJV) - **18** the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

22 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDES

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

1 - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

2 - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

3 - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do **PRACTICALLY** in response to this teaching?

4 - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

The blessing and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.