

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### “THE RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING”

DATE: April 4, 2021

### For discussion or individual study

SPEAKER: Brian/Joe

For words piled up on words, almost spilling over themselves in an unstoppable flood, there is John Calvin’s marvelous, Gospel-savoring summation of what Jesus did for the sake of his people. Written in 1534 for Pierre Robert Olivétan’s French translation of the New Testament, these words are well worth copying and keeping to read back through often.

SERIES: Holy Week

PASSAGE: Matthew 28:1-10

“For, he was sold, to buy us back; captive, to deliver us; condemned, to absolve us; he was made a curse for our blessing, sin offering for our righteousness; marred that we may be made fair; he died for our life; so that by him fury is made gentle, wrath appeased, darkness turned into light, fear reassured, despal despised, debt canceled, labor lightened, sadness made merry, misfortune made fortunate, difficulty easy, disorder ordered, division united, ignominy ennobled, rebellion subjected, intimidation intimidated, ambush uncovered, assaults assailed, force forced back, combat combated, war warred against, vengeance avenged, torment tormented, damnation damned, the abyss sunk into the abyss, hell transfixed, death dead, mortality made immortal. In short, mercy has swallowed up all misery, and goodness all misfortune.”

### Family Dinner Table

There’s an old hymn, not sung as often today, but loved by many in the past, that has a great refrain about the resurrection of Jesus.

“Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o’er his foes!

He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose! “

There are no details about the actual event itself in any of the gospels—we really don’t know, for example, how exactly Jesus rose from the dead because no human saw it. We have the story of what people actually did see: the empty tomb, the grave clothes left behind (see John 20:6-7), and Jesus himself, standing there saying hello. (“Greetings,” he said.” Matt. 28:9)

Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead. And as the title of Sunday’s sermon proclaims, we believe that the resurrection changes everything. Other major religions of the world, including Judaism and Islam, deny the resurrection. Jews believe Jesus died and remained dead. Muslims believe Jesus didn’t really die on the cross. Why do we believe Jesus rose from the dead? Why does it matter if it is true or not?

- 1) Matthew records for us a remarkable physical manifestation of Jesus’ resurrection: “There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.” (v. 2)
  - At the resurrection, Matthew Henry wrote in his commentary, the earth “leaped for joy.” Read Matthew 24:7. Is this quake a sign of the resurrection, a signal of the beginning of the end of days, or both?
- 2) Consider both what the angel told the women, and what Jesus said to them. (See vv. 7, 10.)
  - In what ways do these words establish our mission as believers today? What do we learn about Jesus in these words that we should be sharing with others?
  - Why are the words of the angel, “He is not here; he has risen, just as he said” the most important words of the Gospel? (v. 6)
- 3) Isaiah 53 describes the Suffering Servant, who “bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (v. 12) This description is followed in chapter 54 by a statement of mission, “Enlarge the place of your tent. . . for you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.” (54:2-3)
  - We’re getting close to our World Missions Conference (April 16-18). What is our mission as believers? What does it include? Is there anything that Christians seek to do today that you believe should not be a part of our mission? Explain your answer.

#### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

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#### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

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