



INTRODUCTION:

- How many came to the sunrise service?
- It's always good to see the Body of Christ gathered together in unity
- It's one of the special blessings about being in San Clemente
- The Church in San Clemente loves one another and we are unified together in the love of Jesus Christ

The best news the world has ever known is written on the door of an empty tomb in Jerusalem

- It says, HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN!
- Roxie and I had the privilege of being there just a few weeks ago and I can testify first hand... the tomb is still empty!
- HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Today we are looking at the Resurrected King

- Turn to Philippians 3 and when you get there say you got it

Philippians 3:20–4:1 (NKJV)

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

4 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

- Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead
- The resurrection is essential to the gospel
- Paul said to the Corinthian church if there is no resurrection of the dead, then our preaching is empty and your faith is empty

When instructing the Corinthian church Paul said the gospel is...

1 Corinthians 15:3–5 (NKJV)

³ Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.

- The gospel is.. Jesus is not dead, He's alive!
- And if Jesus is alive, then it changes everything



First, it changes our citizenship

- We are citizens of heaven
- The Greek word used for citizenship refers to a fixed location
- Philippi was a Roman colony, therefore if you were a citizen of Philippi you were considered a legal citizen of Rome and you were entitled to all the benefits of being a Roman citizen
- There were so many advantages to being a Roman Citizen that rich people would spend a lot of money purchasing their citizenship
- Citizenship brought tremendous FREEDOM
- In Acts 22 Paul confronts the Roman Centurion for arresting him and beating him without a trial... the right of a Roman citizen
- When the Roman Centurion heard this, he went to Paul and asked him... how much did you pay to become a Roman citizen because he had purchased his own citizenship
- Paul says... I was born a Roman Citizen... I was born free
- The Resurrection reminds me that our citizenship has a fixed location in heaven and that I've been born again into freedom
- Whom the Son sets free is free indeed!

Second, it changes our focus

- Paul says we eagerly wait for the Savior to return

John wrote in his first letter

1 John 3:2–3 (NKJV)

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- We are living in the last days
- Every prophecy concerning the Rapture of the Church has been fulfilled
- Jesus could return at any moment
- Knowing this should change the way you live
- You don't want to be caught doing something you shouldn't be doing when Jesus returns... it has a purifying effect in our lives
- It focuses us on things that really matter
- Things like... are all my children going to be with me in heaven?



- Are my grandchildren, my husband, my wife, my close friends, my family, the people I love... are they going to be with me in heaven
- The Resurrection gives me an eternal perspective and keeps me focused on what really matters

Third, it gives me an eternal hope

- Paul says... Jesus will transform my lowly body to be conformed into His glorious body according to the working by which He is able
- A body that will be perfect in every way... I keep telling Roxie... just hold on... I'll be getting my heavenly body soon enough
- A body that will live forever, that will be free of sickness, genetic disorders, mental illness
- A body that will be able to match the aliveness that is unique to your personality

When John Quincy Adams was eighty years old, a friend said, "How is John Quincy Adams?" He replied, "John Quincy Adams himself is very well, thank you; but the house he lives in is sadly dilapidated. It is tottering on its foundations. The walls are badly shattered, and the roof is worn. The building trembles with every wind. And I think that John Quincy Adams will have to move out of it before long. But he himself is very well."

If you are young or have good health it's hard to relate to this

I have a friend who has ALS. When you read her posts on facebook, they are so rich and filled with incredible insights. You would never know that she is completely paralyzed, she can't talk, has to be carried, yet through technology she is able to use her eyes to look at a screen and this computer speaks for her. She is looking forward to the day when her lowly physical body will be conformed into a new glorious body

- The Resurrection gives me an eternal hope that I am going to have that glorious body that isn't limited like this lowly body, won't get sick, won't get genetic disorders, won't suffer from mental illness

Fourth, it gives me courage to stand fast in the Lord

- The word stand fast literally means to stand still, to maintain your position
- What position are we to maintain?



Jude tells us...

Jude 20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

We are to stand, to maintain our position in the love of God

- Now, if God was just a belief or a memory this would be impossible to do
- But Jesus is more than a faith
- Jesus is a living person and He is alive today and where He stands we stand and He is always standing in God's love
- If you are standing or maintaining a lifestyle that brings guilt, shame, condemnation, judgment... stop standing there
- Stand where Jesus is... keep your eyes on Him
- Stand where His mercies are new every morning
- Stand where your faith is being built up, not torn down
- Stand where the power of the Spirit is working
- Stand where you can experience the love of God

Notice how Paul refers to the Philippians...

- (Vs. 4:1) He calls them beloved... the root word is agape which is only used for the love of God
- Paul says you are loved by God
- He calls them longed-for... it means greatly loved
- Paul says you are greatly loved by God
- He calls them my joy... the root word of joy is chara or grace
- Paul says you're filled with joy because you've experienced God's grace
- He calls them my crown... which speaks of the wreath that the Olympic athletes would win, the prize the trophy
- Paul says you are God's prize, the treasure He bought the whole field for in order to get you

John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.



- That is how much God loves you
- God doesn't want anyone to perish
- God didn't come to condemn you
- God came to save you
- The Resurrection reminds us that we don't have to die, but we can stand in God's love and live

A story is told of an African Muslim who became a Christian. His friends asked, "Why have you become a Christian?" He answered, "Well, it's like this. Suppose you were going down the road and suddenly the road forked in two directions, and you didn't know which way to go. There at the fork were two men, one dead and one alive—who would you ask which way to go?"

- When I was 13 I met Jesus, I heard His voice and I can tell you with certainty that He is alive
- I can also tell you with certainty that I am going to live forever with Him
- What about you?

We had a neighbor, Scott. Roxie would cut his hair and tell him about Jesus. Roxie asked Him do you want to give your life to Jesus. He told Roxie, I'm going to Hawaii on vacation. I'm going to be drinking, partying and I don't want anything keeping me from having a good time. I'll give my life to Jesus when I get back. He came back and 2 weeks later he died of a sudden massive heart attack. Roxie and I were home when it happened.

- The Bible says every man has an appointment with death
- The statistics are staggering... 1 out of every 1 person dies
- If you were to die today, where you would spend eternity?
- We are created eternal beings, we are all going to live forever
- But you get to decide where you're going to live
- You can spend it in the smoking section or non-smoking section!
- Scott chose to spend eternity in the smoking section
- Jesus said... I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live forever, even if he dies
- Do you want to live forever in heaven? Do you want to know that your sins are forgiven? If so, pray this simple prayer and mean it with all your heart!