

Spc150 – Celebrate The Resurrection

Pastor Dave Shepardson Calvary Chapel Nuevo / www.wordbymail.com

He is risen! He is risen indeed! We're here to celebrate the resurrection, because Jesus is risen and his resurrection changes everything!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ changes everything! Period. So we're here to celebrate it today.

We live in a world that is broken by sin and death and decay. The Bible says we were born with a sin nature and that we all have chosen sin and sin ultimately brings death. In fact, in this life (physically at least) dying is not an option – it's a guarantee. (With the exception of the rapture, but that is a different message.) For 100% of us this “physical life” will end in death.

Now that's not a very “celebrating” thing to say... Unless we're celebrating the fact that we are taking part in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Unless we're here celebrating the fact that because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ we don't ever have to die, that we skip that part and go right from temporary life to eternal life.

And maybe if we don't like hearing or talking about the fact that we are moving closer to death every day, maybe that could keep us from really grasping how absolutely crucial the resurrection of Jesus Christ is for our own lives.

The God of Creation came to this earth as a man, clothed in the tent of a man, to pay for our sin on the cross, to die in our place so that we don't have to, in order to conquer sin and death and the grave in our place, on our behalf – to enable us to bypass death and live forever in heaven with God. And that is the greatest reason to celebrate the resurrection...

If you know that *you* will be “taking part” in it and you can know – you can know today – you can leave this place today knowing that you absolutely are part of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ and because of what he has done for you. Today, we want you to celebrate not an historical figure, not a church, not going to church. We want you to celebrate personally the fact that you are assured of taking part of the resurrection to eternal life in Christ, because of who he is and because what he has done for you.

The Bible is the most supernatural, divine, miraculous writing that's ever existed on this earth – nothing compares to it. In every science, over and over and over again, the Bible proves its miraculous, supernatural existence. *It is God's Word to you.*

And the Bible say there is no other way for you to be able to personally celebrate the resurrection to eternal life except through Jesus Christ. He's the only way because he's the only God that came and died for your sins. He was the only one able to take on your sin, die in your place and give you his righteousness. Jesus Christ alone – The Son of God and Son of Man – He *IS* the Resurrection and the Life. He *exists* as the Resurrection and the Life. It's who he *IS*. And in him alone can *we* celebrate the resurrection and in him alone *you* can personally celebrate the resurrection today.

Let's pray. *Lord we pray for those who are far from you, that you would draw them close to you. We celebrate the resurrection here today. Jesus we celebrate your name. But we pray, Lord, that each of us would celebrate personally our assured and confident part in that resurrection. That we would understand the power in your name, to enable us to bypass death and go straight from this temporary life to eternal life. That we would understand, Lord, that you stood in our place, took our sin and paid the full price and beat death and the grave for us. And that you rose again as the first fruits, the pioneer of the resurrection, and that in you, Lord we can follow, we can take our part in that. We pray that we would understand how critically important making that eternal decision is today. And we pray that you would lead us to it. For your glory and in your name, Jesus, amen.*

Song: Your Great Name

Verse 1:

*Lost are saved; find their way; at the sound of your great name
All condemned; feel no shame, at the sound of your great name
Every fear; has no place; at the sound of your great name
The enemy; he has to leave; at the sound of your great name*

Chorus:

*Jesus, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us, Son of God and Man
You are high and lifted up; that all the world will praise your great name*

Verse 2:

*All the weak; find their strength; at the sound of your great name
Hungry souls; receive grace; at the sound of your great name
The fatherless; they find their rest; at the sound of your great name*

Sick are healed; and the dead are raised; at the sound of your great name

Chorus:

*Jesus, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us, Son of God and Man
You are high and lifted up; that all the world will praise your great name*

Bridge:

*Redeemer, My Healer, Almighty
My savior, Defender, You are My King*

Chorus:

*Jesus, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain for us, Son of God and Man
You are high and lifted up; that all the world will praise your great name.*

Praise the Lord! Amen.

The Bible is very clear sin cannot be in the presence of God. It's really no more complicated than that. And our own righteousness can never be enough to enter heaven. We can never earn it. We can never deserve it. But what Jesus Christ did for us is what we could never do for ourselves.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 5:21 that Jesus Christ took our sin upon himself, paid the price – the full penalty – and then gave us his righteousness, his “right-standing” before God enabling us to be in God’s presence for eternity. Because it was the only way. We can’t get to that right standing ourselves, and God must be just and holy. And so our sin must be dealt with. And so Jesus dealt with it on the cross, then gave us his righteousness and then rose from the dead for us so that we could follow him into the resurrection to eternal life. And the more you know about the glory of having right standing before God and heaven, the more you’ll celebrate the resurrection in your own life. It becomes *everything* the closer heaven gets for you. And the more you know about living in the glory of God’s presence the more you understand *that* is a reason to celebrate being part of the resurrection.

The Bible says in John chapter 1 verse 12,
Those who **RECEIVE** Jesus Christ
Those who **BELIEVE** in his name

They are given the right to become the Sons of God and for them death no longer has a hold because death has been beaten for them on their behalf by Jesus. What the world calls death we call eternal life. In a memorial service death is talked about as a separation, as an end of something. What the world calls death we call eternal life.

We grieve, Paul says in 1 Thessalonians, we grieve but we don't grieve like those with no hope because those with no hope think death is an end. But we know better. We know that for a believer that death is a beginning, the beginning of the resurrected life. And we grieve because there is going to be time passed before we meet our loved one again. But we don't grieve like those who have no hope. And personally, the closer I get to that day... the more I celebrate the fact that I am part of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ said himself that ***I AM the Resurrection and the Life***. He exists as the Resurrected Life. And the Bible makes it clear *our only part* is to decide whether to believe it or reject it. That's it. The work has been done. God has done it all. Christ has paid it all. We choose either to receive it or reject it. We choose to believe or not believe. But when the Bible speaks of believing it's not speaking of believing that Jesus *exists*. James says that the demons believe Jesus exists. It's not doing them any good. It's not even believing that God wrote a book, even a supernatural book, about the life of Jesus.

When the Bible talks about believing in Jesus, it means *“To put our full faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior and your Lord— AS the only source of our resurrection to eternal life.”*

One of Jesus' closest friends on earth was a woman named Martha. Jesus spent a lot of time with Martha and her sister Mary and her brother Lazarus. And Lazarus had died. And Martha was expecting Jesus to show up and stop her brother's death. And he didn't (on purpose.) And when he did come (because he was going to raise him from the dead, if you know the story in John 11) into the village, into Bethphage... you know, Jesus never spent the night in Jerusalem. He would go every night (especially during the Passion Week) he'd leave the city and he would go over the Mount of Olives to his friend's house Martha, Mary and Lazarus' house. And so Jesus is coming into their village and Martha runs out to meet him, to kind of challenge him. Hey, you weren't here when my brother died. What's the deal?

And Jesus says to her in John 11:25-26

John 11:25–26 (NLT)

25 Jesus told her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

26(&) *Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.* (Then Jesus asked Martha, the only true Life-or-Death question) ***Do you believe this . . . ?***

Do you believe this . . . ?” He said this is who I am, whether you believe or not. Now let’s get to the point, Martha. Do you believe it? Do you personally believe that I AM the Resurrection and the Life? And she says “yes Lord,” she did believe. And so he said, Okay – I’ll prove it to you and he raises Lazarus from the dead.

Guys, Jesus Christ *exists as* the Resurrection and the Life. The *ONLY* question is – do you *believe* it? He *IS* who *HE IS*. But your eternity hinges on – do you believe it?

Have we put our full faith and trust - in God’s only option for us to be resurrected to eternal life?

Have we put our full faith and trust in who Jesus Christ is and what he’s done and that he exists as the Resurrection to eternal life? If we have – or if we will today – then God guarantees us that we have a part in this resurrection that we can celebrate *personally*. Not outside, but inside. Not externally, but internally. That’s a cause to celebrate every single day!!!

And you know what? It’s not just us that celebrate the resurrection. Not just those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ, it’s not just the Church. Listen, all of creation is celebrating the resurrection with us. In fact all of creation is anxiously waiting for *us* to be resurrected to eternal life because at that time all of creation will also be freed from the curse of sin that it is under as well. When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, he broke the curse of sin that was not only upon you and I but upon all of creation. All of creation longs for the day when the *children of God* will be revealed; will be glorified in the resurrection because then the curse of sin is broken on creation as well.

Romans 8:21 (NLT)

21 the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

You know some people worship creation. But creation is looking to us. Creation is not asking us to look to creation. Creation is going, “Come on! Come on! When the resurrection occurs then the curse of sin is broken on us and all of creation is free from the curse of sin as well.”

The creation looks forward to the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

All of creation is looking forward to celebrating the day of our resurrection – as God’s children. And if you have put your full faith and trust in Jesus Christ as your Resurrection and your Life today, then *you* today are counted as a son or daughter of God. Your place in the resurrection is assured and all of creation is waiting for you to be glorified in the resurrection so it can be set free as well. What Jesus Christ has given you in his resurrection is a glorious freedom from death.

The resurrection is the final victory. It’s the final win – the final triumph *over death*. Jesus Christ conquered the curse of death. He paid the price required.

In the Bible – 1 Corinthians 15 is known as *The Resurrection Chapter*.

It says this in 1 Corinthians 15:54.

1 Corinthians 15 (NLT)

54. . . when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

...

57(&)thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.

That is why we are celebrating today because we have victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. We’re celebrating today because Christ has conquered sin and death and the grave and he’s rose again in our place so that in him we’ll rise with him! It’s worthy of constant, constant celebration because of the victory we have in Christ.

The POWER of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is what broke the power of sin in your life. The POWER of the resurrection enables you to be transformed from a dying body to a body that will never die. And the POWER of the resurrection broke the curse of sin and death. And the POWER of the resurrection is what all of creation is longing to see come to pass so that creation will be set free as well.

Here’s how the Book of Colossians puts it. Colossians 2:13 says,

Colossians 2:13 (NLT)

13 You were dead...

David recognizes in Psalm 51 that he was born dying. That he was conceived in sin. That his nature caused him to begin dying the moment he was born.

Colossians 2:13 (NLT)

13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

On the Cross– Your sins were paid for

In the Resurrection– God ***made you ALIVE with Jesus Christ!***

See the Bible never lets you just look at the good news but always forces you to look at what God saved you from so you'll know how good the good news is. You were dead. You were on your way to death. ***BUT GOD*** made you alive in Jesus Christ through the resurrection and your faith in him.

Colossians 2:14 goes on to say that ***God canceled the record of sin that kept us FROM Him. He took it away by nailing it to the cross.***

God cancelled the record of sin, the legal document, the record of sin that was against us that kept us from God. He cancelled it. He took it away by nailing to the cross. It's gone.

And verse 15 of Colossians 2 it says ***In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities*** (THAT is a reference to the enemy that wants to see you separated from God). ***He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.***

You know that as much as God wants you with him in heaven that there is a spiritual principality and power that wants you *not* there. God wins. He has already won. But there are principalities and powers that want to keep you even from hearing what I am saying right now.

In this way, Jesus disarmed them – they are toothless now. They are all bark and no bite because the war has been won.

In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

We live FORGIVEN – WE LIVE ALIVE – WE LIVE VICTORIOUS – because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what we celebrate today and every single day. That's what we celebrate. New life, resurrected life, eternal life in Jesus Christ.

And we know that that life is not going to be fully realized until heaven. But the POWER of the resurrection lives inside of us today. That today we can have the same power that rose Jesus Christ from the dead at work in our own lives.

The great Apostle Paul prayed for us that we would understand this phenomenal truth, this great resurrection power that lives inside of us in Ephesians 1:19.

Paul says,

Ephesians 1:19 (NLT)

19 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead . . .

The same mighty power that rose Jesus from the dead lives in us. We in Christ, Christ in us. And so we live with the same power that rose Jesus from the dead. Is it enough power to carry you through? It's enough! Is it enough power to meet your needs? It's enough. Is it enough power for God to continue to refine and mold and shape you until that day that you see him face to face, changing you from glory to glory into his image? It's enough! It's enough power! It's the same power that rose Jesus from the dead, in the person of the Holy Spirit – praise the Lord! *Get some!*

The same mighty POWER that rose Christ from the dead God uses for us who believe. God uses all that power to care for us – to carry us, to guarantee that once we are his that nothing will ever be able to separate us from his love.

The power of the resurrection is not just for getting you to heaven. We're not talking about a ticket punch in an eternal amusement park. We're talking about the power of the Living God, the Resurrected God living inside of us to carry us and to care for us. The POWER of the resurrection carries you through today and that is an immediate reason to celebrate the resurrection, an immediate reason to live it today.

In fact, that POWER that is available to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that God is using for us is what he uses to make us his *POIEMA* – the Greek says, “His masterpiece.” God is making us his masterpiece. He's at work in our lives with same power that rose Jesus from the dead to make us his own masterpiece.

The Bible says in Ephesians 2:10,

Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)

10 . . . we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

We are God's work of art. We are his masterpiece. And he wants to give you new life in Jesus Christ, and he wants to use the same power that rose Jesus from the dead to

accomplish his plan and his purpose in you and through you in this life as we prepare to spend eternity in glory with him resurrected to the eternal life.

You need to decide only to *receive it* or *reject it*. It's true, whether we receive it or reject it. Who Jesus Christ is doesn't change based on whether you believe or not. But everything changes for you. That's our only role. Receive or reject.

John 1:12 (ESV)

12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

But to all who did receive him, it means to invite him into your life, to bring him into your life.

...who believed in his name, it means put their full faith and trust in who he is and what he's done

...he gave the right to become children of God, That's what God has done for us.

He came as a man. He took on our sin. He paid the price. He conquered sin and death in the grave. He rose again as the pioneer of the resurrection. And then he offers it to us freely. But it's all true and though he offers it freely, we must still decide whether to receive it or reject it; whether to put our full faith and trust in Jesus alone for the resurrected life or not, or in something else.

And so my call to you today, my prayer for you today, is that you would receive and believe both who Jesus Christ is and what he's done on your behalf. That you would be able to celebrate the resurrection *personally*. Not externally, but internally. That you would know for sure that you have a part in the resurrection.

As glad as we are to celebrate the resurrection as a family it's nothing compared to seeing you receive and believe and celebrate the resurrection *personally*. That's our prayer today. That's our prayer *every day* is that those listening would put their full faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord, and would believe that he is who he is and he's done what he says he's done. And if so, then God will guarantee you that perfect place in the resurrection. You'll have your spot reserved and your inheritance reserved in heaven. And the power of the resurrection to carry you through every day and every situation from here until you get there. That's the reason to celebrate the resurrection every day for every one of us from today until we receive the glory of the resurrection.

So here's what I'd like to do as we close. I am going to ask you to pray today. I'm going to ask the worship team to play and I'm going to ask you to pray but not where you're sitting. I'm going to ask you to come forward right here to the cross and pray. And I don't want you to come forward for *my* good; I want you to come forward for *your* good. Because I want you to remember the day that you pushed through whatever reasons you have to not receive Christ. So I am going to ask you to come forward for your good, to remember this day.

I can't tell you how many people say to me, "Remember on Easter I gave my life to Christ?" So, can you really give your life to Christ sitting in a chair? Yes, you can. Do I want you to come up front, I do. I want you to come up front right now so I can pray with you. These prayer counselors will pray with you while we're singing.

I want you to make a physical commitment for God and for yourself.

Let's pray and you pray with me. *Lord Jesus, make me part of your resurrection, Lord. Rush in to my life. Fill me with your Spirit, Lord. Make me a child of God. Please forgive me of my sin, Lord. Wash over me, and give me right standing before you. Please fill me with resurrection power and reserve a place in the resurrection for me, Lord. Thank you for saving me. Please make me a disciple. For your glory, and in your name, amen. Amen! Praise the Lord!*