

We read the narrative...

Photo

- It's empty...
- We knew it would be (2,000 years later and still Easter)
- But what does it mean? (What the Bible tells us)

We know who Jesus is

Jesus was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. -Romans 1:4

- Unique...
- God's approval of Cross
- Christ's claims are all true
- The only way to eternal life

I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never ever die. Do you believe this? -Jesus in John 11:25-26

- Eternal life is not merely a beyond the grave thing... it is a present reality

We died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, **now we also may live new lives.** -Romans 6:4

We have a new relationship with God

Romans 6:10-11

When he died, he **died** once to break the power of sin. But now that he **lives**, he lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin **and alive to God through Christ Jesus.**

- The relationship for which you were made...

We have a new relationship to sin

Romans 6:5-9

⁵ Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

⁶ We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ **so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.**

⁷ For when we died with Christ we were **set free from the power of sin.**

⁸ And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

⁹ We are **sure of this because** Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

- We are no longer under the **power of sin**
 - = **Debt, guilt, shame, condemnation, behavior**
 - = Brokenness

1 John 2:1-2a

My dear children, I am writing this to you **so that you will not sin.** But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the **sacrifice that atones** for our sins...

We have a new relationship to the future

- Our previous relationship was one of fear: (1) Fear of death, and (2) fear of how it will all end
- (1) If Jesus has, through His resurrection, given us new/eternal life, then we do not have to fear death

Hebrews 2:14-15

Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he **break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.**

- That fear was largely about judgment

1 John 4:15-18

15 All who confess that Jesus is the Son of God have God living in them, and they live in God.

16 We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love. God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them.

17 And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. **So we will not be afraid on the Day of Judgment**, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world.

18 **Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment**, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.

1 Thessalonians 1:10^b

You are looking forward to the coming of God's Son from heaven—Jesus, **whom God raised from the dead**. He is the **One who has rescued us from the terrors of the coming judgment**.

- The resurrection of Jesus, means we can be free from the judgment and live eternally!

1 Corinthians 15:53-57

For our dying bodies must be transformed into **bodies that will never die**; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled:

"Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?"

For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! **He gives us victory over sin and death** through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- We will rise in glory!
- And all the effects of sin and death will be reversed (i.e. **(2) Fear about how it will all end**)

Isaiah 25:7-9

God will **remove the cloud of gloom**, the **shadow of death** that hangs over the earth. He will **swallow up death** forever! The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears. In that day the people will proclaim, "This is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation!"

Good news!!!

What is your relationship with God, to sin, and the future?

- Peace with God
- Freedom from sin
- Joy in the future

Come to Jesus!