

Reality Carpinteria - Pastor Britt Merrick
Mark 15:40 – 16:14
The Work of His Resurrection
(14AUG2005)

Pastor Britt's Opening Prayer:

Lord, thank You for Your Word. You are so faithful to speak to us through Your Word. It's wonderful, Lord. Today, I pray that You would stir us up by way of reminder with regards to the reality of the resurrection. We thank You Father, that You did not leave Jesus in the grave. You did not allow the Holy One to see decay but, You rose Him up on the third day. In His resurrection, is the declaration of power and the availability of power for us. Lord, appropriate that power in our lives today. We want that power to flow into our lives and through our lives and out of our lives. We want to be walking in a resurrected manner.

Lord, we realize that there are relationships here today, hearts and situations that are shipwrecked and broken. But, You are able to breathe brand new life into them. We look for You to manifest that resurrection power in our midst.

I submit my thoughts and lips to You. We ask that every word that comes from me would be directly from You. We want to hear from You, Lord. Speak to us in Jesus Name, Amen.

**The reality that Jesus rose from the dead is the *single most important fact* in Christianity.
Without the resurrection there can't be Christianity!**

The Resurrection

- **1 Corinthians 15:14** "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain... **17** and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."
- Jesus' death upon the cross means nothing, without His resurrection from the dead.
 - His resurrection allows us to receive the benefits of the cross. It allows us to enter into the blessings thereof.

No resurrection. No Christianity!

- We know that He did rise from the dead.
 - Our faith is not worthless. It is precious.
- Because of Jesus' resurrection, our sins are forgiven and we are given brand new life.
- The proof of who Jesus claimed to be is bound up in the resurrection.
 - **Romans 1:4** "[Jesus] was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead."
 - This is a clear declaration of Jesus' identity as the Son of God through the power of the resurrection from the dead.

NOTE: Lots of religious leaders throughout history have made all sorts of claims. Jesus made more bold statements than any of them. He claimed absolute exclusivity. He claimed, "I am the Way; I am the Truth; I am the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Then, He offered to die in our place.

**Most other religious leaders want *you* to die for *them*!
Jesus Christ said that He would die for you and on the third day He would rise again.
No one has ever died for you, predicted his or her own resurrection and then pulled it off!
Only Jesus Christ!**

- The historical fact of the resurrection declares Jesus Christ to be, with power and authority, the only unique Savior of the world, the Son of God.
- Since He predicted His resurrection, the words of Jesus Christ have validity and authority over any other figure, book, philosophy or ideology. He has proven what He says to be true. Amen!

The Father's Stamp of Approval

- The resurrection is the Father's approval of Jesus and His acceptance of the work on the cross.

- **Philippians 2:8-9** Because Christ “humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also God, exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.”
 - God has made Jesus high and exalted like Him. Jesus humbled Himself to the point of death upon the cross; the Father raised Him and placed His stamp of approval on what Jesus had done.
- It is only through the Resurrection that we are born again.
 - **1 Peter 1:3** “Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

**The only way that we are born again is because of Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection.
No resurrection. No Christianity. No forgiveness. No eternal life.**

The Account of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Mark 15: ³⁷ And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last. ³⁸ And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Jesus, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

- Recall the events that took place at the cross.
 - There were 3 hours of darkness. A time when the Father was placing upon His Son, Jesus Christ, the weight of the sins of the world.
 - When we accept Jesus, although we have sin in us, we will no longer have sin upon us. The weight was taken off of us and placed upon Jesus on the cross. This was illustrated to the whole world by those 3 hours of darkness.
 - Historically speaking the Jewish Passover, when Jesus was crucified, always took place during a full moon. The 3 hours of darkness was not an eclipse of the sun. This is an impossibility during a full moon.
 - It is a legitimate picture of God blocking out the sun as a picture of all the weight of sin being placed upon Jesus Christ.
 - The darkness was shadowed with the cry, "My God. My God. Why hast thou forsaken Me?"
 - The earth began to shake, rocks were split open, tombs opened up, dead people rose, and the veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. (Matthew 27)
- As the Roman soldier witnessed all these events, plus the **way** Jesus breathed His last, he said, "Truly, this man was the Son of God."
- More profound than these aforementioned events is the **manner** in which Jesus gave up His life. It came with two final cries and salvation for the first of many hearts.
 - "Tetelestai." - The declaration that it is finished. The debt of sin had been paid in full. No more could the wrath of God be poured out on repentant hearts. No more debt of sin to be paid.
 - "Father, unto thee I yield My spirit." – Jesus **voluntarily** yielded up His spirit.
 - Jesus had previously stated, "No man takes my life from me. I have the authority to lay it down and I have the authority to take it up again."
 - Two criminals, one at His right and one at His left, had been hurling abuses and insulting Him. Then, one of them stopped and said, "Who are You?" And, then added. "Remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you. Today you shall be with Me in paradise." He saved that criminal upon that cross from eternal damnation.

NOTE: There is a lesson in the manner in which Jesus gave up His life. People are going to see Jesus in you and me, in the way that we give ourselves to others. They'll never see the Lord in our selfishness, or in the way that we reserve our rights, or in what is due us and for us. But, when we give of ourselves the way that Jesus did, they will say, "Truly, they know the Son of God."

Mark 15: ⁴⁰ There were also some women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the Less and Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ When He was in Galilee, they used to follow Him and minister to Him; and there were many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

- These two verses tell us that there were several women around the cross.
 - Significant because the women of those days did not follow rabbis around. Different rabbis in the area of Israel would attract disciples (always men), who would follow that rabbi.

- Jesus was a rabbi. He was also the Son of God and Savior of the world. He had male disciples and female disciples.
 - This was unheard of in that culture. When it comes to cultural barriers, Jesus Christ is ***the*** barrier breaker. It is because of Him that we realize that “***there is neither Jew, nor Greek, nor male, nor female, nor slave, nor freeman, but we are all one in Christ Jesus.***” (***Galatians 3:28***)
- At the cross is Mary Magdalene; the other Mary (Matthew 27:61), who was the mother of James the Lesser and Joses; Salome, the mother of James and John, whom Jesus called the sons of Thunder; Mary, Jesus’ mother, who was entrusted to John by Jesus during His last moments on the cross (John 19:25); and the other women who followed Jesus. (Mark 15:41)
 - It is very significant that the only man present was John. Although all of Jesus’ disciples had boasted that they would follow Jesus to prison and to death, they had all abandoned Him and fled when things had gotten tough.
 - The night before, at the Passover meal, John was the disciple who had reclined his head on Jesus’ chest. Before the events of the cross ever took place, John had been nearest to Jesus. He had been the one most intimate with Him. When the trial of the cross came, John was the one who could stand firm and persevere.

Perseverance, faith and steadfastness in the midst of trials come from being intimate with Jesus.

- Throughout Church history we read of women who’ve been faithful to the cross of Jesus.
- Presently, we have so many women who are faithful. Faithful to intercede, to labor and to serve. Thank God, for these women who have recognized their important role in the church. They’ve stepped up to it, embraced it and faithfully serve the Lord.
- “Where are you, men? Where were you at the cross and at the call to the nations today?”

Mark 15 ⁴² When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

- The Council of the Sanhedrin had condemned Jesus to death. Joseph had not yet confessed Jesus openly and outwardly. When they accused Jesus of blasphemy and condemned Him to death, as a Council member, Joseph did not stand up and take a stand for the Lord.
- Knowing the animosity toward Jesus, he now courageously asks Pilate for the body of Jesus. Somewhere in the gospel of John, Joseph became a secret disciple of Jesus. Now, he has prepared a gravesite for Jesus and acknowledges Him, for it says that he was “waiting for the kingdom of God.”
- It was the day before the Sabbath, a day in which no work could be done. All preparations had to be done the day before. According to Jewish law, victims could not hang upon the cross during the Sabbath.
- The Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of the victims on the cross so they wouldn’t be up there during the Sabbath. The soldiers broke the legs of the criminals at each side of Jesus. Because Jesus had already died, they didn’t break His legs.
 - This was a fulfillment of the prophecy, which states, “***He protects all His bones, not one of them will be broken.***” (***Psalm 34:20***) Also, when the Lord told Israel how to eat the Passover lamb, He said, “***It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.***” (***Exodus 12:46***)
 - Jesus is the fulfillment of these prophecies because not one bone of his was broken.
 - To ensure that He was dead, the soldiers pierced His side and water and blood came forth.

Mark 15 ⁴⁴ Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. ⁴⁵ And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

- We are told in John 19 that Joseph of Arimathea had an accomplice with him and that it was Nicodemus.
 - In John 3, we learn that Nicodemus had had a secret meeting with Jesus. He believed that Jesus was from God, for no one could do the works He did unless He was from God. Nicodemus longed to get to the heart of the matter. Jesus told him that unless a person was born again, he would not see the kingdom of God. This baffled Nicodemus. Could he return to his mother’s womb? Jesus told him, “That which is born of flesh is flesh, but that which is born of spirit is spirit.” You must be born from above, to enter the kingdom of God.
 - Jesus told him that everyone is born once (a physical birth). To enter into heaven, we must be given a spiritual birth. We are spiritually dead in our sins. (***Ephesians 2:1***) The

moment we confess our sins to the Lord and ask for His forgiveness, He makes us spiritually alive to Christ. We are born again in the Spirit.

- Nicodemus heard these words and became a secret disciple of the Lord.

Mark 15⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were looking on to see where He was laid. **Mark 16**¹ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might come and anoint Him.

- It was a common practice when someone died to anoint his or her body with spices to slow the decay process and minimize the odor of a rotting body. Jesus had been there for two days in that hot weather.
- Jews left the body wrapped in linen for one year in the tomb. After that, the oldest son would collect the bones and put them in a box called an ossuary. The bones would lie waiting for the resurrection of the dead, spoken of in the Book of Ezekiel, when God would breath new life on the dry bones.

Mark 16² Very early on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.³ They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"⁴ Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.⁵ Entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe; and they were amazed.⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him."

- Matthew 28:2-4 states that this man was an angel. In addition, there was a second angel, who sat atop the stone that had been rolled away from the tomb.
 - The angel sitting on the large rock, is a great declaration of the victory of Jesus over death. The cords of death could not hold Him. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, just like He had predicted.

The Benefits of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ	
<p>Regeneration – To be born again with a new nature, not because of the cross but because of Jesus' resurrection. Ours is a <u>living</u> hope through a <u>risen</u> Savior, a <u>Living Redeemer</u>.</p> <p>Just as His great love earned for us forgiveness through the cross, Jesus mercy and grace earned for us new life through His resurrection!</p> <p>When God looks at us it will always be through the lens of the blood of His Son Jesus. In the mind & heart of God, your place in heaven is a done deal. You're already there! God saved us and made us brand new creatures, so that He could bless us, and show us His grace for all eternity!</p> <p>Satan will forever try to harm you by reminding you of your old identity. But Jesus tells you, the old things are past away. All things are now brand new!</p>	<p>1 Peter 1:3 We have been "born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."</p> <p>Ephesians 2⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His <u>great love with which He loved us</u>,⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised us up <u>with Him</u>, and seated us <u>with Him</u> in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, all things have become new again."</p>
<p>Justification – The ability to stand in righteousness before a holy God.</p> <p>Jesus' death upon the cross is only half the picture! We are declared righteous before God only after Jesus' rose from the dead!</p> <p>When Jesus died on the cross, we were declared innocent. When He rose from the dead, we were declared righteous!</p>	<p>Romans 4²⁵ He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.⁵¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.</p>
<p>Sanctification – Our growth in holiness and obedience. Part 1 happens immediately when you are born again and sanctified, or made holy. The Bible calls all Christians saints or holy ones. Part 2 is Progressive Sanctification, to grow in holiness and obedience to the Lord.</p> <p>The Bible teaches that because of Jesus death and resurrection, we have a resurrected life. "Are you living that resurrected life and in the power of the resurrection?"</p> <p>The power of the resurrection – that old sinful nature has been made powerless over us when it was nailed to the cross. We are raised to new life with a new nature.</p> <p>Live according to your new nature!</p> <p>Don't go to the cross and pull out that old man down! Don't hang onto him! Don't hang out with him! He has been</p>	<p>Romans 6³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.⁵ For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,⁶ knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;⁷ for he who has died is freed from sin.⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its</p>

<p>rendered powerless. Don't empower him by pulling him down from the cross! Don't tie a dead, decaying, powerless and disgusting body around your neck!</p> <p>The things that I know that are right, I don't do. I always find myself doing the wrong things! Oh, wretched man that I am. Who will deliver me from this body of death? *</p> <p>Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus (Romans 7:15-25).</p> <p>In His resurrection we have been raised to new life and must keep seeking the things from above: the kingdom and righteousness of God.</p> <p>Our identity is in Christ. When Christ appears again, we shall appear with Him in glory!</p>	<p>lusts,¹³ and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.</p>
<p>Glorification – a bodily resurrection takes place when we meet the Lord and are resurrected in our glorified bodies, just like His was a bodily resurrection.</p> <p>Our bodies are very precious to God. He formed us in our mother's womb. He shaped our fingers. When Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He did so to redeem us in our entirety: body, mind and spirit. We shouldn't neglect the body. It is so precious before the Lord that He will resurrect it.</p> <p>When we go to heaven, He will give us a glorified body! Not exactly the same as the one we have now, but it will be recognizable. This body cannot go to heaven; it is not fit for eternity. It is perishable. God will give us glorified bodies.</p> <p>At the Rapture of the Church, at the last trumpet, in an instant, the bodies of Christians who have died will be raised to meet their glorified bodies, which have been present with the Lord. Simultaneously, those who are living will be snatched up, caught up in the sky and their bodies will be transformed into glorified bodies. Thus we will be prepared for eternity with our glorified bodies to live in glory with the Lord.</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 6:14 "Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His Power."</p> <p>2 Corinthians 4:14 "He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus..."</p> <p>1 Corinthians 15:50-58 ⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. ⁵⁵ "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; ⁵⁷ but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.</p>

* **Body of death** – in those days, if someone committed murder, as a form of punishment the Romans would tie the arms of the dead body around the murderer. They would have to drag around the decaying corpse. This was called the Body of Death.

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Jesus lived a perfect life on our behalf.

In the same way that He rose so that we might be raised to new life, and in the same way that He died on our behalf to pay our debt, He lived a perfect life so that we might have the benefits of that perfect life in heaven.

Here's the bad news.

The Bible says that God keeps a record of every wrong we ever do. That ought to terrify you.

Here's the Good News!

When you get saved, the Bible teaches that your sins get blotted out, meaning they can't ever be recovered. They are erased from God's "computer hard drive." They will not be seen again. They are blotted out from the book of bad deeds. Now you have a blank page where your name is! Jesus Christ lived a perfect life. There is in heaven the record of His perfect obedient life. He was completely pleasing to the Father. When you get saved, and because Jesus was raised from the dead, it's as if God opens the file of Jesus Christ. He right-clicks on it. Chooses Select All. Copy. Then opens your page, which is an empty file. He right-clicks and selects PASTE. Amen! The perfect life of Jesus Christ is credited to your account.

When you get to heaven, it is not by the skin of your teeth. It is in glory!

God will pour out blessing after blessing on you for eternity.

All because Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

Mark 16 ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, here is the place where they laid Him. ⁷ "But go, tell His disciples and Peter."

- When Jesus rose to glory, the first thing that heaven wanted was to have Peter told about it.

- The last thing recorded of Peter just before the crucifixion was him saying, "May God kill me and damn me if I'm lying, I don't know Jesus!" And then he went out and wept bitterly.
- Heaven wants Peter to know that Jesus has risen for his regeneration, his justification, his sanctification and his glorification. God loves a repentant heart!

Mark 16 ⁸ "He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him, just as He told you."⁹ They went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had gripped them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- One of the few times in the New Testament when the women failed to do something as they had been instructed.

Mark 16 ⁹ [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.]¹⁰ She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.¹¹ When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.

- These men had walked with the Lord for three years. They had heard Him say on several occasions that He would be delivered up to death, but He would rise up again in three days.
- Jesus did not appear to the disciples first, nor the religious leaders, nor to important political figures first. He did not appear to anyone of any importance in the eyes of man. He appeared to a woman, who had once been demonized by 7 demons before the Lord had cast them out of her. She had been heartbroken, tormented and terrorized, and Jesus had set her free. Now, Jesus decides to appear in His glory to this woman, who had been set free from the bonds of hell!
- The heart of God is to set you free from the bonds of hell.

**If you've lost your faith and denied the Lord,
you are the first person to whom Jesus wants to appear!**

Mark 16 ¹² After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country.¹³ They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

- These two men were on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-35) They had been followers of Jesus, but by Saturday they had lost hope. They had thought that perhaps Jesus was the Messiah; perhaps He was the Savior. But Jesus had been crucified, humiliated, mocked, scourged and beaten. They had lost all hope. Not able to wait until Sunday, that "Third Day", they abandoned Him. The Lord Himself went after them, as they left Jerusalem heartbroken.
- The Lord did not send an angel or a prophet, a pastor or a preacher. The Lord Himself appeared to them on the road to show them, He Had Risen!

A Special Message from Pastor Britt:

Maybe it's a dark "Saturday" for you. Maybe you aren't seeing the resurrection yet. Maybe you aren't seeing the power of the Lord. There are situations in your life that you need Him not just to heal but resurrect and breath new life into. But you feel that you've been waiting and waiting, and "Sunday" has not yet come. Hold on! Don't leave town dejected. The Lord is Faithful. The Lord is Good. He is Risen! He will breathe new life into your life. He is able to raise situations, lives, marriages and relationships from the dead. Amen! He appeared to Peter, Mary Magdalene and to these two men. He did so because that is His heart. He wants you to see Him today.

Pastor Britt's Closing Prayer:

Lord, we thank You for how unbelievably wonderful You are. You are absolutely glorious, Lord. There are some who are struggling with doubt. Wondering if "Sunday" will come, so to speak. Wondering if You are going to come through. Afraid because it seems as though You are silent and in the grave. Thank you that when those two on the road to Emmaus and the disciples doubted, You did not abandon them. You went to them and You proved to them that You are faithful Lord, teach us to wait on You. Come into our lives and prove Yourself faithful here. There is fear and broken hearts, disillusionment, separation, and abandonment. And yet, You rose from the dead to deal with those things.

Jesus said that the Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. Maybe you've been seeking the Lord and He seems far off, as though He is in the grave. Jesus said the Father is seeking those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. Come forward, get on your face before the Lord, and proclaim Him as the Risen Lord. Proclaim Him as Good and Wonderful. Listen, saints of God, God will come and He will meet you. He'll find you! If you are on the Road to Emmaus and hopeless, He's pursuing you today! If you feel that you are all bound up with the things of hell, He wants to reveal Himself to you. Maybe you've forsaken Him like Peter did. He will never leave you or forsake you. He is absolutely faithful.

When Thomas doubted, Jesus said, “Put your fingers into my side. Press your fingers into my wounds.” Thomas said, “My Lord and my God!” When you hold communion in your hands, with your fingers you can touch the wounds of Christ, so to speak. You can partake of His blood, so to speak. And we can remember His absolute faithfulness and make the confession, “My Lord and my God!” and surrender to the power of His resurrection. Let His resurrection work through your life. Get on your face and on your knees before the Lord. Press your fingers into His wounds. Let’s do business with the Lord.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What does God mean when He asks us to walk in a resurrected manner?
2. Jesus was able to procure the forgiveness of our sins through His death on the cross. Why isn't this enough to declare us righteous before our holy God? Why is His sacrifice on the cross only half of the powerful work that Jesus completed on our behalf?
3. What lesson can we learn from the manner in which Jesus gave up His life on the cross? Can it be easily said of you today, “Truly he/she is a son/daughter of God”?
4. There are many people who claim to be Christian, but not all are born-again. What does it mean for a Christian to be born again, in the manner described by Jesus in John 3? Why is this so important?
5. What are the benefits afforded every Christian by the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
6. The Word of God declares that in the mind & heart of God, your place in heaven is a done deal. You're already there! And yet, there are times in which we choose to live with a decaying body wrapped around our necks and the worst part is we empower it with our very lives! WHY? Knowing that this would happen, our Lord has equipped us to combat this behavior. How? Also, who has He given us as a source of strength and power? The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy to **“Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”** (1 Timothy 6:12) Why is it important that at the end of the day we too can say, **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”** Please read Ephesians 6:10-20.
7. The first part of sanctification happens immediately when we are born again and it requires no further intervention on our part. The second part called progressive sanctification requires that we actively participate in the process of growing in holiness and obedience to the Lord. Why is the second part so hard for us to do? Why is obeying God so against our (old) nature? Taking what you know about Progressive Sanctification, can you explain what the following passage from Philippians 2:12-13 means to you? **“¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”**