

sermon study guide

Pastor Henry Schorr

Date: April 11 / 12, 2020

Sermon Title: Easter Sunday 2020

IN - PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What Easter weekend traditions have you experienced and/or do you currently practice?
2. Christian author Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote, "To live without hope is to cease to live." What gives you hope in these unique and challenging times?

UP - PURSUE GOD

Read *1 Corinthians 15:3-8*

3. From these verses, what evidence is given for the resurrection? How do you know that Jesus lives?
4. Pastor Henry gave several reasons why the resurrection of Jesus is the basis of true hope. Read the following reasons and Scriptures. Which one do you need to hear the most in your life right now? How does this reminder give you hope?
 - ❖ Because Jesus lives, we know his claims are true ([John 14:6](#))
 - ❖ Because Jesus lives, our worth and identity is based in him and him alone ([Psalm 62:1](#))
 - ❖ Because Jesus lives, our past regrets and failures need not define us ([1 John 1:9](#))
 - ❖ Because Jesus lives, we need not face our problems alone ([Romans 8:28](#))
 - ❖ Because Jesus lives, our life does not end at the grave ([John 11:25-26](#))

OUT - PURSUE MISSION

Read *1 Corinthians 15:12-20*

5. How would you explain the importance of Christ's resurrection to a non-Christian?
6. How can our lives reflect that our identity and worth are not based on the things in this world?

For Personal Reflection/Prayer:

What is causing the most anxiety, pain, or disappointment in your life right now? Pastor Henry reminded us that because Jesus lives, we can know that he is aware of it, and we're not alone in it. Thank God that the story isn't over yet - our hardship will not have the final word. Reflect on the resurrection, and pray for strength and perseverance to trust him.

For Daily Reflections from CSC, visit <https://www.cschurch.ca/daily-reflections/>

THE WORD (NIV)

Luke 24:13-35

1 Cor 15:3-8, 12-20

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

¹² But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

John 5:18, 10:30, 14:6; Psalm 62:1-2; 1 John 1:9; Romans 8:28; John 11:25-26

sermon study summary

Easter 2020 Resurrection Sunday Pastor Henry

He is risen! As Christ-followers we believe Jesus is alive: He is Lord, and wants a close relationship with us. In the midst of these challenging times, it is especially important to set aside time to remember these truths.

The current pandemic has turned everything upside down. At times it feels like nothing is normal, uncertainty is everywhere. Our sense of security and safety is shattered, our vulnerability and mortality exposed.

In the Easter story, those who knew and were close to Jesus experienced a similar wake-up call in the events surrounding Christ's death and resurrection. In Jesus' time, Israel was under the control of Rome. Every Israelite hoped for freedom, believing in prophecies about a Messiah who would usher in a kingdom providing security and prosperity. But this seemed hopeless, until they met Jesus: a captivating teacher, profoundly wise, and miraculously powerful. Hope grew daily. Surely Jesus was the promised One; a leader to overthrow Rome so that the world would know the God of Israel is GOD.

But within a week, everything changed. Jesus was arrested. Within hours Jesus was tried and convicted by a circus court, scourged mercilessly and crucified. His followers were devastated. They scattered like frightened sheep without a shepherd. Hope died with him. Whenever our hopes are dashed, we can identify with the disciples. Hope is to the spirit as oxygen to the body. Without it, we die.

But something changed the disciples. They saw and met the risen Christ. They began to boldly declare that they had seen Jesus alive and raised from the dead (1 Cor 15:3-5). All except John died a martyr's death holding to that testimony. Today we celebrate that Jesus lives. His resurrection is the basis for our faith and ultimate hope.

What are the implications of Jesus' resurrection? Because Jesus lives:

- **We know his claims are true.** He was crucified because he claimed to be God, not because he was a great teacher (John 5:18, John 10:30). Without the resurrection, his claims would have been false, without authority, leaving us with nothing (1 Cor 15:14). Jesus is Lord and God - the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6). Tim Keller writes, "If Jesus is alive, then he is Lord and you are going to have to accept all he said."
- **Our worth and identity is based in him alone.** God so designed our life that, unless our hope is in Jesus, everything else will disappoint us. We are restless until we put our hope and trust in God (Psalm 62:1-2). We are who our Lord says we are: a royal priesthood, his children.
- **Our past regrets and failures need not define us.** Peter denied that he even knew Jesus, but Jesus has the power to forgive (1 John 1:9). Jesus came back to life to free us from our pasts and bring us back to life.
- **We need not face our problems alone.** Nothing is beyond his awareness or power (Romans 8:28). The pain, loss or evil we experience is never minimized. But in our experiences we are reminded that he will not leave us or forsake us, and the story is still being written.
- **Our life does not end at the grave.** In 1 Cor 15 Paul states that death does not have the final word. Rather, Jesus does (John 11:25-26).

Where is your hope? When it comes to Christ, we all must choose. He is either God or godless. All hope – or all hype. But nothing in-between.