



Part 2: The Last Word

April 4 & 5, 2015

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Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

The resurrection of Jesus challenges me to be honest about my spiritual condition

The Bible says I'm dead...

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath.

– Ephesians 2:1-3

...but that's not the end of the story...

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. – Ephesians 2:4

The Bible says I'm asleep...

This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead... – Ephesians 5:14a

...but that's not the end of the story.

...and Christ will shine on you.” Ephesians 5:14b

The resurrection challenges me to become fully alive and fully awake, because Jesus lives!

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. – Romans 6:1-4

A Simple Prayer of Faith

Jesus, I confess that I have gone my own way.
I confess that I have sinned against you,
but right now I repent and ask for your forgiveness.
I give back to you the life that you gave me.
I ask you to be the Savior and Lord of my life.
I give myself fully to you.
Amen.

Next Steps

Near the end of today's service you'll have a chance to respond to God by choosing to follow him for the first time or to renew your relationship with him. If you make one of those decisions, we'd love to connect with you for a few minutes to encourage you in your decision. Listen for details in the message or visit the table in the middle of the Commons after the service.

For dozens more next steps, be sure to pick up a copy of CTK Life in the Commons after the service. If you take our Spiritual Health Self-Assessment, you can match your results to the best class, group, or other opportunity listed in CTK Life.

To explore more ways to be part of our community, chat with someone at the tables on the right hand wall of the Commons as you head out today.

Small Group Questions

- 1) How do you remember celebrating Easter as a child? Did your celebration have any spiritual significance?
- 2) Does the resurrection of Jesus change outlook on life? In what way(s)?
- 3) Is there an area of your life that needs a spiritual resurrection or reawakening? What is it? What do you think God would want you to do in that area?
- 4) In what ways can you experience resurrection power this coming week?
- 5) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?

**OUR
MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.