**The Risen Jesus**

*Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.****2****And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.****3****His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.****4****And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.****5****But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.****6****He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=mt+28&version=ESV#fen-ESV-24198a)*] lay.****7****Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”****8****So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.****9****And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.****10****Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:1-10, ESV)*

 Christ is Risen from the dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ! Welcome to our Resurrection Sunday worship service! My prayer is that our message for today will be a blessing to each of us as we rejoice in our Lord’s victory. I believe that the Bible is conveying to us today the core of our faith, the central truth, which is the fact of Jesus’ Resurrection.

 We believe not just in a prophet or a sage, but a victorious Savior. Today’s Scripture passage comes to us, reminding us that God was not going to His Son to remain under the power of death, because Jesus had no sin in His life to legally keep him there. Jesus had made His coming Resurrection so clear to His disciples and those around Him that even His enemies, the chief priests responded after His death and requested a Roman Guard to guard the tomb.[[1]](#footnote-1) The passage shows no stone, no antichristian movement, no army nor a guard could stop Jesus’ resurrection.

 When God had established the cost of sin, which Paul the Apostle says is death (in Romans), He also was establishing the other side of that spiritual reality. In other words, not only were the wages of sin death, but the wages of innocence genuine life in its fullest meaning. Of course, the only Innocent One in history was and will always be Jesus of Nazareth.

 Getting back to the account, we see that the angel came, rolled the stone away, and allowed the Roman guard to remain shocked and probably confused, and spoke to the women there. The angel gave the first “Good News” – but since he was not human, the first evangelists are technically the women who were at the tomb that morning, whose testimony was usually unacceptable and unreliable in those days[[2]](#footnote-2). God had established the Good News of Christ’s Resurrection by his own hand, thru the angel, and immediately gave the command to spread that news to all humanity through those women. In a word, God Himself established the foundation of the Christian faith, which was and is always the resurrection of Jesus.

 As an illustration of the importance of a foundation, think about the safety of a building when its foundations are solid and stable. Take the Tower of Pisa in Italy, for example, which experts thought would one day fall because it was leaning more than 5 degrees off of plumb[[3]](#footnote-3). It was said that every year, the tower would slip another 1/20 of an inch, and had already shifted several feet. In 1990, engineers were forced to right the problem through a significant project, by digging around the tower and shoring up its foundations, to get it closer to plumb again. The project took until 2001 to finish, and it was successful in saving the tower from falling. After that, in 2013, the building slipped in the correct direction another 2.5cm, and it is now considered much more stable than before.

 In the case of our own lives, if our foundation is Jesus’ Resurrection then it is solid. As long as we believe in the Risen Savior, we have victory with Him against the influences of death and sin because of the guarantee of eternal life. To say it differently: since Jesus’ Resurrection conquered our sins and fear of death, today, by declaring Christ’s Lordship and following Him, we continue to belong to His victorious people.

 Therefore, today we have a reason to rejoice. We belong to Victorious, Risen Jesus. He is different than the other prophets before Him that came along in the Scriptures. He is different than the various heroes of history. He crushed the powers of sin and death, so that we also could face sin with our faith and see death as nothing. Why? Because the price of sin has been paid for, and the power of death cannot condemn us to eternal loss, since we are Jesus’ people. This is our faith, and praise God that we no longer need to doubt as to who or what can save us from the oppression of this world!

 My prayer is that we remember the value of Christ’s Resurrection and live according to its power. We believe not just in a prophet or a sage, but a victorious Savior.

Christ is Risen from the dead! Blessed is the Resurrection of Christ.

The Lord bless you all. Amen.

1. It is highly likely that such a “Guard” was not a few people but 30 (thirty) soldiers to guard the tomb and to place a two-ton stone with the seal of the Roman imperial seals, which if defaced, was a high crime. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Because of the patriarchal society, women’s testimony by itself was inadmissible in court then… [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For those of us not engineers, this is generally a dangerous degree of leaning for any building. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)