**Easter Proclaimation**

Based on [Mark 16:1-8](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Mk16.1-8)

Preached on April 17, 2022

The Resurrection of Our Lord ~ Easter Day

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Christ is Risen…He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Everything in the church calendar is calculated in reference to this day. Christ is crucified and risen from the dead. He is alive! But there’s nothing particularly spectacular about that. You and I are alive, what of it? It would be more remarkable this morning if we weren’t.

But that Jesus Christ is alive is spectacular because he was and is crucified. He died, and behold he lives, and he holds the keys to death and Hades. And now if you believe this and still fear death and hell…it is for nothing…a waste of energy.

And the fear we have for this life–-war, of pandemics, of climate change–even if they are problems that need to be addressed need not be feared. The worst that any evil in the world can do is cause death. But Jesus *rose* from the dead. That’s the point, death is not the “be all end all, drop what you’re doing, take emergency measures, lie cheat steal” do whatever you can to avoid it” …type of problem anymore. Death is not all powerful. Death and suffering…They are conquered. They are temporary, but salvation, life, and blessedness are everlasting. They are everlasting for those who are in Christ Jesus.

It ought to make us really be considerate and cautious with sort of hope we have in this world…how we understand it’s brokenness, and whether the powers and principalities in this world have the means to “fix it.” Paradise was lost, but think it can be restored. Some think creation can fix itself, and so created beings try to build the tower of babel ever higher, to reach heaven from earth and recreate Eden.

So what kind of paradise has humanity accomplished in it thousands of years. How high into the clouds are we in the 21st century? Has technology, our secular saviour–succeeded in perfecting our world? It is true, the “quality of life” for the average person has increased dramatically over the last few centuries, even decades. But every gain in health and medicine and access to food and water, always comes with a price and is a mixed blessing. Think of people who live decades longer than they would have in the past, taking pills and living unhealthy unhappy lives in care homes. Think of the fact that the poorest people in wealthy countries live or can live better than kings did a century ago. But people are depressed, unmotivated, and depressed about being unmotiveted.

And if they believe paradise is achievable, who is to blame that it is not yet found. We must look for something to blame for our problems. The empty promises, conspicuously hidden within all advertisements, all political promises, and every scientific advancement–promises that you can and will be able to find your own happiness in the things of this world—without rules or limits, without demonic superstitions, and without the curse of sin…these promises again and again fail us. Time to stop blaming the world, time to look inward…to find the flaw. Time to repent.

Ironically, life is prolonged by our advancements but so is sadness, suffering is sedated but so is happiness, to the point where people on average live longer and with less suffering. Oh wonderful technology, medicine, science, Our secular “Saviour”, that has progressed us to the point of moral bankruptcy. Sure people live longer, so much longer in fact that suicide has become legalized to stop it. When the happiness of this life has become hollow, our advanced civilization concedes the fight and finally submits to Death as the last ditch “saviour” for people who’s happiness in this world has come to an end. Technology has won some battles, but already surrendered the war.

But Christ has been raised from the dead. Death no longer holds him or threatens we who are in him. He has died and behold he lives, and he leads a hosts of captives in is train…sin, death and the devil all conquered…hell is trampled underfoot…this world and its vanity exposed by the light of HIS victory.

And lookit how foolish we are. We have less reason to be worried today than any other time in human history. But we just find new things to be anxious about. Pandemics, invasions, mandates, conspiracies…not that these things aren’t problems, but the world sets them before our eyes to worry about constantly. We set before our eyes images on a screen that make us forever anxious and covetous for what this world doesn’t have to offer, but pretends as though it does.

One recent such anxiety one is inflation. Evidently inflation has been skyrocketing, meaning things are on average something like 10 percent more expensive than they were pre Covid. What that means is not that you’re in for a hard time. Unless I’m mistaken, it means that we are now only 90 percent wealthier than people living in the poorer countries of the world, or than people who lived a century ago. It’s almost like we’re not happy unless we find something to worry about, which also makes us unhappy. It’s almost like a vicious circle or a Catch-22. It’s almost like the key to happiness is not to be found in this world.

We aren’t meant to find their happiness in this world; a world that long ago traded the truth of God for a lie. Sin makes our hearts a vacuum of consumption, and even when we have had our fill to the point of gluttony, we spew it out finding ourselves hungry and, like dogs, foolishly return to our vomit for more. We are restless until we find our rest in God; hungry until he fills us, foolish until he teaches us…and his kingdom is not of this world.

The problems that plague this world do not have their solution in this world. The fixing of the world has to come from above, where christ is…from heaven. And it has. Christ is risen! And now we are like a bride waiting for her wedding to happen, we are watchmen waiting for the morning. Everything is already planned and the date is set…we just have to wait and not lose hope. Because there is no hope that the world’s gonna save itself.

And this is seen in the simple detail. That on easter morning, the women brought spices to anoint Jesus. When the sun had risen they went to the tomb thinking and not knowing who will roll away the stone? What good will that do? Jesus is dead, spices aren’t going to change that. And they can’t get in anyway. Many people today avoid funerals, thinking there’s no use in mourning what is gone, there is no hope against death…best stay positive, go out and keep working towards building happiness in the land of the living.

For these women…their only hope of salvation died…and rather turn to a new hope, they return to their dead hope. Here’s what the women know…if God is dead, that doesn’t somehow restore credibility to the hope in this world. That’s like thinking if the Government is proven untrustworthy, there is hope in anarchy; or if your food is shown to be poisoned, there is hope in starvation. If Jesus is dead for good; that doesn’t mean that there is hope in a world without him. It just means there is no hope.

The women were not happy, but were honest and wise enough to realise that if Christ is dead, then there is more wisdom in mourning him forever than to pretend that there’s another hope. We would rather honour what he preached and promised–which was good, and just and right—than put our trust in princes who cannot save. St. Paul says that if in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But if Christ remains dead, that doesn’t prove the unbeliever right…it just means that there is no hope for anybody.

The truth is that, unless God is here for us, takes up our cause and fixes evil and death for us…then there is no hope. It’s not that we need to look for hope elsewhere, it’s that the well is dry, the tank is empty, the bills are counterfeit, and nothing is worth anything. Your pagan neighbour might look happy enough, with a wife and kids and a good job, well respected and healthy. He might have a clean conscience without God, and might be optimistic for a future of world peace, renewable energy, and an end to poverty…but don’t envy him. His confidence is ignorance. His happiness is an illusion. Don’t think he’s somehow *courageous* for living without the comfort of God …he still believes in the Easter Bunny.

Jesus died, the women believed he was still dead and went to the tomb anyway. That’s inspiring. Turning to believe in some other fictitious hope could have made them happier, but they chose an enlightened despair. The person who has no hope in this world, though he believes neither in the resurrection of Christ, is closer to christ than the person who does. Eeyore is not as happy as Piglet, but he is wiser. So is the person who has no hope in this world.

But imagine having a real hope for another world, the kingdom of God where his blessing and forgiveness and eternal life is assured. Then you can be wise as a serpent ***and*** innocent as a dove. Then you can forfeit any hope for this world, and live a peaceable, quiet, patient, self-controlled upright and happy, life suffering for a time but storing up treasures for the world to come. Because it is coming, christ is risen, he’s back and he’s coming for us all. Lord Jesus come quickly.