

The Victorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ
Week 11 – The Reality of the Spirit Realm
Easter Sunday

Message Mate

- On Easter Sunday morning, the women went to the tomb where Jesus spoke to them, they saw him, touched him, worshipped him and obeyed him when he said to go and tell the disciples. Jesus had died on the Friday, defeated sin, death and devil and was resurrected on the Sunday, confirming he was alive and had done what he had said he would do.
- Comparing Genesis 1-3 with Jesus, we see Adam in the Garden of Eden where he was tempted by Satan and disobeyed God by eating fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. His disobedience brought broken relationship with God, judgement, removal from the Garden of Eden and ultimately his death. In contrast, Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane where he obeyed God, leading to him being crucified (cursed as he was hung on a tree). Now his death and resurrection brought justification, restored relationship with God and life. Through Jesus we have a shift from being afflicted by sin causing spiritual death and broken relationship with God, to a position of being forgiven, receiving spiritual life and being restored into relationship with God.
- Romans 6:5-7 tells us that we are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. When Jesus defeated sin it freed us from sin also. When Jesus was resurrected, we are resurrected spiritually with him also.
- The expression “in Christ” was the most common expression of faith in Jesus found in the New Testament. It is found ninety times in the New Testament with other similar expressions (in Jesus Christ, in Christ Jesus and in Him) found more than one hundred additional times. People understood that they had died in Christ and they were resurrected in Christ. Similarly, you have died in Christ and you are resurrected in Christ. This means that you are a new creation, alive, without condemnation, have every spiritual blessing, are righteous, holy and redeemed, inseparable from the love of God, free and have eternal life “in Christ”.
- Because you have died and been resurrected in Christ, your life is no longer defined by what you did or said. Rather you are defined by what Christ did when he defeated the power of sin and set you free. You are now defined by Christ as the centre of your beliefs, thoughts and actions.
- Sin is still a reality that affects us, but sin no longer has authority over you because you are in Christ. When you confess your sins, you are forgiven. Your identity is now in Christ.

Some Questions to Consider

1. Imagine you were with the women at the tomb as described in Matthew 28:1-10. Describe the series of emotions as you would have found the empty grave, encountered an angel and then met with the resurrected Jesus.
2. Read the second dot point above and discuss the shift that may have happened in your life from being afflicted by sin, spiritual death and a broken relationship with God to a position of being forgiven of sin, receiving spiritual life and being restored into relationship with God.
3. Read Romans 6:5-7. Discuss what it means to you to be united with Jesus in death and resurrection.
4. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and discuss your understanding of what it means to be “in Christ”. Why do you think that the expression “in Christ” was such a powerful and profound description of faith in the early church?
5. If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ, how has your life changed as a result of forgiveness of your sin? Because you are “in Christ” and because Christ defeated sin, then sin no longer has authority over you or authority to control you. Have you experienced this reality? How might you exercise that authority?

Pray –

Pray with thanks for Jesus’ death and resurrection. Pray with thanks you are “in Christ” if you have put your faith in Him.

Ask the Lord to help you walk in all the promises that are available to you “in Christ”