

Title: Why Jesus' Resurrection matters

Text: Romans 6:1-5

Date: April 5, 2026

This morning, we're going to be looking at Romans 6:1-5. So, if you have your copy of God's word with you this morning, and I hope you do, please turn to Romans 6:1-5. I think the best words I could begin this sermon with is, He is risen. Brothers and sisters, that one statement sets us apart from the rest of the world. And even from broadly what is called Christianity in our day.

See, although this confession to Christ's resurrection is one that is stated with the earliest disciples all the way back on that first resurrection Sunday in Luke 24:34, when they said to one another, "*The Lord is risen indeed.*" And even though this confession continued throughout church history with Augustine and Chrysostom in the centuries that followed, and even though this confession has been carried on by all stripes of Christians for almost two millennia up until today, this confession that He is risen is being responded to in our day even by self-claimed Christians, not by affirmation of He is risen indeed, but rather by two very simple, basic, incredulous questions, really and so what?

First, many even so-called Christians respond to the statement, He is risen with a skeptical, really? Martin Luther King Jr., following Harry Emerson Fosdick's example from the early 1900s, stated and wrote repeatedly from his childhood throughout his seminary years and on into preaching in the 50s and 60s that Christ's resurrection wasn't a physical resurrection of Jesus's body, just a metaphorical resurrection of Jesus's ethics. And that skeptical view of really, still continues to this day.

For example, Mike McHargue, a theologically progressive host of a very popular podcast today named Ask Science Mike, recently explained that he doesn't know if Jesus was actually raised from the dead. And then he shifts that he doesn't really think that matters. He shifts to that skeptical response to He is risen with a so what? By saying rather humorously, Jesus lives just in my anterior cingulate cortex, the seat of my compassion. In other words, a bodily resurrection, he says, doesn't really matter.

As another progressive children's pastor recently wrote in their Easter curriculum to children, the point of the Easter story isn't whether Jesus literally rose from the dead or not. We're missing the point if we're fighting over the historical accuracy of a bodily resurrection. To which I say, along with Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:14, that if Jesus be not literally raised from the dead, then the Christian faith would be utterly irrelevant. We are wasting our time here if there is not a Jesus who is the Christ who has risen from the dead. But we are gathered here today as a people because He is risen, and He is risen indeed. Reason points to this and more importantly, Revelation declares it. So first, just plain reason points to the reality that Jesus is risen from the dead.

I'm sorry I'm going to nerd out on you a little bit this morning, but I love history. So, here's some history facts. We have more historical evidence and testimony to Christ's life and resurrection than we do for any other ancient figure who has ever lived. For example, there are less than 10 manuscripts that prove that

Genghis Khan ever existed. And those were created over 200 years after his death. There are only about 12 manuscripts that show that Alexander the Great ever existed. And those were written 300 years after his death. And there are only about 250 manuscripts that state that Julius Caesar ever existed. And those were written over 900 years after his death. But listen, there are over 25,000 manuscripts testifying to Christ's life and resurrection. Manuscripts of collaborative firsthand eyewitness testimonies all written within 50 years of the stated events occurring. There is nothing else like this.

Jesus's life, death, and resurrection is the most well documented, historically testified event in all ancient history. You don't hear that much, do you? And it is the only reasonable explanation for why Christianity has survived over the last 2,000 years. Think about it. If Jesus's death had been the end of the story, you can be sure that no one would have ever heard from any of his followers ever again. There would have been no record of Jesus, just another statistic of Roman brutality and injustice. But because Jesus was physically raised from the dead, physically appeared to his followers, and then physically ascended into heaven next to his father's right hand, the gospel explodes onto the scene to become the world's largest religion against all earthly reason.

As one scholar put it, although his untimely death at the age of 33 sent his disciples into confusion, his resurrection on the third day revived their messianic hope, rejuvenated their flagging spirits, and sent them out to win the world. Their task was formidable. Their chances of success almost nil. They had no central organization, no financial resources, no influential friends, no political machine backing them, arrayed against them was the ecclesiastical power of the Sanhedrin, the political and military power of the Roman Empire, and the religious fanaticism of the Jews.

Moreover, their leader, whose life and teachings were to constitute their message, was unknown outside of his small circle of friends. He had written no books, erected no monuments, endowed no institutions. The task looked hopeless. And yet within one lifetime, the gospel of Jesus Christ had spread throughout the entire known world. How is that possible? It's possible only if there was a truth at the center of it all. The truth of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. He is risen. He is risen indeed. Reason points to this glorious truth, and Revelation declares it.

First, Jesus predicted it. Jesus prophesied somewhere between three to six times before his death that he would die and rise from the dead. As Jesus said on one example in Matthew 20:18-19, *"See, we're going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."* Jesus predicted it.

Second, the apostles recorded it. Every single letter that the apostles ever wrote either refer explicitly or implicitly to the reality of Jesus rising from the dead and being alive forevermore. They testified to Jesus physically appearing to his followers at least 10 to 12 times over the 40-day period following his resurrection, visiting multiple individuals and groups in multiple locations at multiple times. And the apostles describe all of these appearances in Acts 1:3 as just being some among many infallible proofs. Jesus predicted it. The apostles recorded it.

And the early church preached it without qualification in spite of persecution and death for this gospel. As Paul states just 20 years after Christ's resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:1-5, *"Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then the twelve. And then to more 500 brothers at one time.... and then to James, and then to all the apostles. And last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared to me."* Jesus predicted it. The apostles recorded it. The early church preached it, and they died for it without qualifications. Why? It's because He is risen, and He is risen indeed. Reason points to this, and Revelation declares it.

And so, for today, I want you to know why Jesus' resurrection is so important for us. In other words, having addressed as briefly as I could in the introduction, the first skeptical question of, really? Now I want to address from the pages of the Scriptures, the second skeptical question, so what? Why does the resurrection of Jesus Christ even matter? Well, we're going to see why it matters by looking at Romans 6:1-5 this morning. A passage where Paul, an apostle and a testified eyewitness to the resurrected Christ, makes the connection for us between Christ's resurrection and his importance for our life. In other words, he answers the question, so what? And what we're going to see is that Jesus' resurrection matters because it transforms our life right now. And second, Jesus' resurrection matters because it guarantees our destiny that is yet to come. That's why Jesus' resurrection matters this morning, and that's why every single one of us who have trusted in him should be rejoicing today. Because Jesus is risen from the dead, our lives are transformed, and our destiny is guaranteed.

So, with that in mind, I would invite you at this time, if you're able, to please stand out of respect and readiness for the Word of God as I get to read our passage before us today this morning from Romans 6, starting at verse 1 on into verse 5.

Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes these words for us today.

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

Amen.

This is the Word of God, whose testimonies we consider when the wicked lie in wait to destroy us.

Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for your Word this morning, and I pray that your Spirit would be at work during this time so that we might understand the glorious truths of Jesus' resurrection this morning and the importance it has for all of us here today. Father, I pray that every single soul here today would be gripped with the conviction that your Son is alive, and that it's through faith in him that their lives can be transformed, and their destinies can be made new through the resurrected Lord.

Give us grace to understand these truths, we ask, in Jesus' name, amen.

You may be seated.

So, the first truth that Paul wants us to see this resurrection Sunday, the first truth that begins to answer the question of so what, is found in verses 1-4 of our passage today where Paul shows us that Jesus' resurrection matters because Jesus' resurrection transforms our life. That's in verses 1-4. He says, *"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."* Now, I want you to notice that Paul writes in verse 1, *"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?"* And here Paul, we're jumping in the middle of an argument, Paul is responding to a misunderstanding that he knew his detractors were about to level against him because of his teaching. See, Paul had just taught back in chapter 5:20, if you look back at it, that he says, *"where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."* And you need to understand, as Romans 3:23 puts it, that *"all of us have sinned and we have fallen short of the glory of God."*

As one pastor, John Piper, helpfully defined it once, sin is the glory of God not honored, the holiness of God not revered, the greatness of God not admired, the power of God not praised, the truth of God not sought, the wisdom of God not esteemed, the beauty of God not treasured, the goodness of God not savored, the faithfulness of God not trusted, the commandments of God not obeyed, the justice of God not respected, the wrath of God not feared, the presence of God not prized, and the person of God not loved. That is sin. And friends, we've all done it. We've all fallen short of the perfect standard for which we've been created, and we've rebelled against our creator, God. And the wages, the just consequences for those sins Paul has just taught earlier in this letter is death, eternal separation from the blessed presence of God forever.

And yet here is the wonder of the gospel, the good news that Paul has just finished expounding on in chapters 3-5, that God, rather than judging us for our sins, He drew near to us in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ, so that by His death on the cross, on our behalf, we might be forgiven and obtain a righteous standing before God through faith in Him. In other words, despite all of our sins, God has provided a way of salvation for sinners like us by His grace. Hence, what he wrote in chapter 5:20, *"where sin increased, grace abounded all the more."* Hallelujah! That is wonderfully extra good news.

But someone might protest. If God's grace in Christ pays for every sin, then what's to prevent someone from just doing whatever they want to do? As Paul anticipates it here, what is to keep someone from continuing in sin so that grace may abound? Or as Paul says earlier back in chapter 3:8, *"why not do evil that good may come? - as some slanderously charge us with saying."* And you can kind of follow the pernicious logic here. If God's free offer of grace and forgiveness in Christ is always available to sinners, and it is, then no matter how sinful they are, then that means that God's grace is always greater than your sins. And if God's grace is always greater than your sins, why then why not just sin a whole bunch and boast in God's abundant grace towards you? And by the way, there are people who literally believe and teach this.

Jude 4 tells us that there are certain people who creep into churches unnoticed, ungodly people who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality, into an argument to live however you want to live, even if scripture calls it sin. And Paul had to confront this in another church in 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 when he found out that rather than correcting an adulterous individual among their assembly, the Corinthians had rather started boasting in them. In other words, they had gone around and saying, hey, look at how much we understand God's grace because we accept so much sin. Paul knows that such a thought would be a horribly attractive lie to sinners who naturally love to sin.

And so, Paul preempts this perverted logic by asking this rhetorical question, *"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?"* If God's grace is greater than all of our sins, then why turn from it at all? Why not just keep on living in it? And there are many people who believe that this is exactly what the grace of God teaches, that you can be genuinely saved and that it does not have to make any real difference in your life. That you can somehow be justified, that is declared righteous before God and yet never become sanctified, actually begin to be made righteous by God. That you can genuinely be born again through faith in Jesus Christ and yet show no evidence to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in your life.

So, what does Paul say to this type of lie? Does the grace of God allow people to live in their sins, to continue to live in the same relationship with sin that you had before trusting in Christ? Well, he gives us the answer in verse 2 when he writes, *"By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?"* And by the way, that is the strongest negative language that Paul could have mustered up in the Greek language. It communicates absolute abhorrent denial. No, no, no. Absolutely not. *"Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound. By no means!"* Not on your life. And notice Paul argues against this licentious line of thinking, not from the perspective of it being improper. That's not what a Christian ought to do.

But from the perspective of being impossible, a Christian cannot do that. It is impossible for someone who has received the saving grace of God in Christ to continue living in sin unchanged as if nothing has ever happened. It is impossible because when you trust in Jesus Christ for your salvation, something always has happened. Namely, a spiritual transformation. As Paul says at the end of verse 2, *"How can we who died to sin still live in it?"* See, death and life are incompatible.

You won't ever see someone from Fairview Cemetery up there on Adriel Hill get up, go down to Marie's candies, buy a box of chocolates, and then head back up to the graveyard. Marie's candies are almost that good, but you'll never see it. Why? Because death and life are incompatible. You can't be dead and alive at the same time. It's a logical impossibility. Guess what? In the same way, it is just as logically impossible to talk about a Christian living unrepentantly and continually in what scripture calls sin because as verse 2 says here, they have died to it. In other words, they've experienced a radical transformation. And now, as 1 John 3:9 puts it, *"No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God."* Someone who has been joined to the Holy Christ is always goaded by God into repentance and back to obedience to the God they love. A believer cannot continue in sin, cannot live in it, and cannot live for it like he did before trusting in Christ. He will repent of it. He will turn from it. He will grow to hate it. Why? Because he has died to it.

You think, well, wait, hold on, how did that happen? I mean, how can we be so sure that every believer always experiences this type of radical transformation in their life? And the answer is because every believer is identified and united with Jesus Christ, with his death, and resurrection. And this is where we find our first answer to the question of so what and why Jesus' resurrection matters. It is because we who have trusted in Jesus Christ haven't just taken on a label. We have become identified and united with Christ's death and resurrection. Look at verses 3-4. Paul writes here, *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."* Notice, Paul starts off everything here with the phrase, do you not know? In other words, this false idea that believers can somehow live continuously in what scripture calls sin would have been automatically corrected if those believers in Rome had just remembered a simple truth that they ought to have remembered, that they ought to have known. And what is that truth? The truth is their identity with Christ.

This is the problem of our lifetimes, brothers and sisters. Most if not all spiritual problems in the Christian life and most if not all false teachings in the church today spring from an ignorance of what it means to be united to Jesus. And that was the issue for the believers there in Rome. What had they forgotten? They had forgotten that they were baptized into Christ Jesus. That is thoroughly dunked and immersed into him. What does that mean? What does it mean to be immersed into Christ Jesus? Well, we're given a clue over in 1 Corinthians 10:2 where we read that the entire nation of Israel during their wanderings in the wilderness *"were baptized into Moses."* In other words, Moses was their leader. He was their representative, their anchor to God. He was their way to God, the one out of whose face shone the very glory of God. They were in a sense united to Moses.

Israel experienced, let me put it this way, Israel experienced, participated in, and were beneficiaries of what God was doing through Moses. And so, in an infinitely deeper and more profound way, we who've trusted in Christ, we experienced, participated in, and are beneficiaries of what God is doing through Jesus. When we trust in Christ, we are thoroughly, completely plunged into him and what he has done on our behalf. We become participants and beneficiaries of what he has done. So that we can say that when Jesus as our representative fulfilled all righteousness, we fulfilled all righteousness with him. And when he died to the

law, we died to the law in him. And when he rose by the power of God, we now rise in the power of God as well. Because he lives for God, so we live for God in him as well. We are immersed in Christ.

As Galatians 3:27 puts it, *"For as many of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* The picture there is like a cloak that's being thrown over us. For those of us who have trusted in Jesus, we are clothed in the perfect righteousness and work of Jesus Christ. We don't stand before God on the basis of our own works, we stand before God in him. We are deeply immersed into him. This speaks of a deep and intimate personal relationship. Just as 1 John 1:3 says, *"our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."* And this is why Jesus can give these awesome promises throughout scripture like, *"Behold, I am with you always, even to the ends of the age."* And why Paul could say over in 1 Corinthians, *"he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him."* And so even if we just stopped here, with this reality of a believer being united and immersed into Christ's person, that alone shows why it is impossible for a genuine Christian to continue on living in sin. It is because they have been united to the Holy Christ.

But Paul's not even finished yet because we've not only been immersed into Christ's person, but we've also through faith in Christ been immersed into his work. Namely, his death into verse 3 and his resurrection. Look at verse 4, Paul writes, *"We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in,"* what, *"newness of life."* See, this is why Jesus' resurrection matters. It is because through faith in him, we become beneficiaries and recipients of his resurrection. And that means a transformation. That *"just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in a newness of life."* Listen, that is describing a radical transformation.

When it comes to Jesus, just think about it. What walked out of that grave on the third day was very different than what went in. He was buried in weakness. He rose in power. Jesus does wild things after he rose from the dead. He phases through walls, seemingly. He pops back and forth between Jerusalem and Emmaus and Jerusalem again. And even though he still has open wounds from his crucifixion, he stands before his disciples in perfect health and says, Thomas, put your hands in my side. I mean, what was seen on Sunday was radically different than what went into the grave three days prior. Listen, *"just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."* A Christian, if he is a Christian at all, is a person who has been radically transformed and born again through faith in Christ.

As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore, if anyone be in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."* Just as Christ has certainly risen, and he has risen indeed, so also those who are in him are certain to die to sin, live to God, and walk in a newness of life as well. A new life that is marked by a new heart, spirit, and love for righteousness, obedience, and a new song. For someone who has been immersed into Christ by faith, everything becomes brand new because we've been united to his resurrection and are experiencing a spiritual transformation as radical as Christ's physical one when he rose up out of the grave. So that's the answer to the, so what question. That's why Christ's resurrection matters. It's because Jesus' resurrection transforms the lives of sinners when they trust in him. And I want you to know that.

There is not a single individual here, I want you to know, who is so given over to sin that Christ cannot save you. His grace abounds yet more and more even over our sins. And if you would but trust in him, he can save you from your sinful life right now. You don't have to keep on living in shame or guilt or under a sense of condemnation. Jesus can make you new. Hallelujah! I want you to know that. I want you to know that because this is a gift that is available for you, and I want you to know for those of you who trust in him, this is the gift that belongs to you.

The only reason, if you're an unbeliever looking in from the outside, I want you to know the only reason why those who trust in Jesus experience any changes in their life is not because they just underwent a moral reform or they started trying harder to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps and that's why you're seeing a change in their lives. No, the reason why those who have trusted in Jesus experience this fundamental transformation is because Jesus is alive and he's risen from the dead and he's working in the lives of his people. That's why, and his resurrection life is in us, even as we are in him. The reason why we are no longer dead in our trespasses and sins and no longer hating God and no longer enslaved to sin like we once were repentant where we once loved sin and the reason why we are now alive to God and Christ growing in our love for him, it has nothing to do with us. It has everything to do with Jesus. He is risen. He is risen indeed. I want you to remember this.

Saints who have been born again for a week and saints who have been born again, I don't know, sometimes it looks like almost a century, right? That you are where you are not because you made the difference in your life but because Jesus is alive, and he has been working in you faithfully as he has promised to do. That you are in him, and he is in you and his life is seen in you from day to day. That's awesome. You know why you're here this morning, believer? Not because you're a morally upstanding individual. It's because Christ in you longs for his Father to be worshiped. He is risen. He is risen indeed. As Paul says in Galatians 2:20, *"It is no longer I that lives, but Christ that lives in me."* *"By the grace of God,"* he says in 1 Corinthians 15:10, *"I am what I am, and his grace towards me was not in vain."* Oh, believer, there is no room for pride. There is only room for glory in Jesus because Christ has risen from the dead. All glory be to Christ. So why does Jesus' resurrection matter? Because it matters because Jesus' resurrection transforms our wicked, filthy, depraved souls and gives us a brand-new life in him.

And second, in conclusion, Jesus' resurrection matters because Jesus' resurrection guarantees our destiny. Romans 8:1 says, *"For all those who are in Christ Jesus, there is therefore now no condemnation."* As we consider the future, as those of us who have trusted in Christ, we do not await a future of judgment. We await a future of glory because Jesus has risen from the dead. Verse 5, Paul says, *"For if we have been united with him in a death like his,"* a death to sin and its condemnation, *"then we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* Now notice, I want you to see that Paul uses a different word here to describe our relationship with Christ. This is awesome. In verses 1-4 he says that we have been immersed into Christ. But here in verse 5 he says we've been united to Christ. And that is a botanical term used to describe two things growing together. It's like when you see two trees that grow together, they become fused and inseparable, moving, and rising together in a common direction because of their shared life.

And Paul's saying here this is exactly what has and is happening to every individual who has trusted in Christ. You have been fused with him. We now have a shared life with Jesus that is together and inseparable. He is in us. We are in him. And those who have trust in him are now moving and rising together in a common direction with Jesus because of this shared life. And this is where it gets awesome. Where is this shared life and common direction leading? *"If we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* Notice the past to future tense change that happens here. *"Because we have been united with him in a death like his, therefore we shall be certainly united with him in a resurrection like his."* And friends, Jesus didn't rise ethically or metaphorically. Jesus rose physically from the dead.

He comes to his disciples in Luke 24:39-41, and he says, *"See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."* And then he asks for something to eat. I mean this is real life after death. Real life to look forward to in a physical body that can no longer be touched by sin, death, and the curse. And because he lives, friends, we who are united to Christ will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Romans 8:11 says this, *"If the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."* Notice the spirit who raised Jesus from the dead now dwells in us who believe. *"And we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* You already possess the resurrection spirit. Right now, believer, you will certainly be raised from the dead. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 says this, *"Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.... each in his own order."* Christ the firstfruits, and then it is coming, all those who belong to him. And Philippians 3:20-21 promises that our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, *"will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body."* No longer touched by sin, death, and the curse. Amen.

My whole left leg hurts this morning because of something I did in my sleep. I'm only 40. I can't wait until I reach the age of some of you guys. Right? What a glorious truth that there is a day coming when I will be redeemed in totality. Not just my soul and spirit, but my body also belongs to Jesus. And so, he performed not just a spiritual salvation, but a physical one. So that I might experience his glory in totality forever. As 2 Corinthians 4:14 says, *"we know that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us into his eternal presence."* We know it. We know it. *"If we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."* This is a promise you carry to the grave.

It is just like what Jesus promised us in John 11:25-26. *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."* Listen, to be united to Christ is to be united to the resurrection itself. And therefore, because he lives, as we sing, I can face tomorrow. Because he lives, all fear is gone. Not because of who I am, but because of who he is. The resurrected Lord. Jesus' resurrection guarantees my destiny. For those of us who have trusted in him, Jesus' resurrection guarantees our destiny. We will soar where Christ has led, following our exalted head. One with him, with him we will rise. Ours is the cross, the grave, the skies. Hallelujah! This is why Jesus' resurrection matters. It is because Jesus' resurrection transforms our lives, and Jesus' resurrection guarantees our destiny if we come to him in faith.

And so for those of you who are here this morning, and you know deep down that you are not in Christ, you may be religious, you may be moral, you may even admire Jesus in a sense, but you know this morning that sin is not dead to you nor you to sin, but that sin still holds power in your life. That you are enslaved to it. And that if you remain in your sins, then that same power that raised Jesus from the dead will one day summon you, but not to life, to judgment. See, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is not only God's declaration that Jesus is Savior, it is also his declaration that Jesus is Lord. Acts 17:31 says this, *"He has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."* An empty tomb is God's receipt to the world, that the payment has been made. He is Savior, but if you don't repent and trust in him, he is also judge, and the judge is alive. Therefore, repent of your sins and trust in the one who died and rose again to save those who trust in him. Trust in the resurrection and the life.

And now, brothers and sisters, you who are in Christ, I want to encourage you this morning to look to Jesus and live. To find in him a newness of life. Do not live as though sin, fear, and death have the final say in your life. For Christ, who is your life, has crushed them underneath his feet. You are not who you once were. You have died, and your life is hidden with Christ and God. And so, walk, walk in a newness of life, brothers and sisters. When sin comes to you and says, you belong to me, you can recall, I have died to sin, and I live in Christ. When fear whispers, but what about tomorrow? You can believe my destiny is united to Jesus' I have nothing to fear.

And when death itself draws near, you can confess with unshakable confidence, *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* Because Jesus Christ is risen, as he said. This is why Jesus' resurrection matters. It's because his resurrection transforms our lives, and his resurrection guarantees our destiny. He is risen. He is risen indeed. Amen. This is why it matters.

This is the word of God from Romans 6:1-5, which I consider it a great privilege to have been able to share with you today, which I now commit to your further study and your faithful obedience, until Jesus Christ, who is our life, returns.

To that end, let's pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you so much for the living hope that we have through Christ's resurrection from the dead. Father, we thank you that in spite of this world in which we live that has been broken and ruined due to the fall, and even our bodies that groan day by day, we thank you Father that as we look to Jesus, we find our ever-living hope that while we were dead in our trespasses and sins, here is one who is alive forevermore, who can impart to all those who trust in him eternal life, life unending and free. And that eternal life means more than just an escape from hell, but it means that we can be delivered from our own sinful life in the here and now.

So Father, I pray that if there is someone here today who is weary and heavy-laden, that it is burdened by sin and the brokenness that it brings, that this morning they would turn their eyes to Jesus, the one who is risen from the dead and ascended on high, and they would trust in him for the forgiveness of their sins,

for the gift of eternal life that his resurrection promises. Father, I pray for the rest of us who are believers, who still are living in this fallen world, and still are living in these bodies of death affected by sin, Father, help us to look to Jesus and live as well. As we do our battles against sin help us to remember Christ has already won. And as we consider the great enemy, death itself, may we remember that Jesus Christ has already won that battle as well. And that every grave that we go into someday will ultimately be an empty grave because we are united to Jesus Christ. Father, we thank you for his perfect person and his perfect work that gives us a hope today and all days. May we worship him as the resurrected Lord as we ought to.

We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

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