



SERMON NOTES

GLOBAL OUTREACH CHURCH

THE RESURRECTION & WHAT IT MEANS

- The resurrection is the most significant event in history.
- Without it, nothing else matters (1 Cor. 15:14).
- Paul describes the resurrection as “*the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*” (1 Cor. 15:20).
- *Firstfruits* is an agricultural metaphor that points to the first harvest.
- Richard Gaffin in his book *By Faith, Not By Sight*, explains:
 - Paul is saying, the resurrection of Christ and of believers cannot be separated. Why?
 - Because, to extend the metaphor as Paul surely intends, Christ’s resurrection is the “*firstfruits*” of the resurrection “harvest” that includes the resurrection of believers.
 - This thought is reinforced in verse 23: “Each in his own order: Christ the *firstfruits*, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

WHY THE RESURRECTION MATTERS:

- Most of us associate it with eternal life, not with daily life on earth.
 - How is the resurrection significant in our marriage, our job, our family?
 - How does it affect a life inundated by 200 data messages a day, a life harried with errands, chores, obligations, demands?
1. **He is authentic** - Jesus is who He claimed to be; the promised Savior of the world (Jn.10:17-18 NIV) - thus the messenger validates the message. (Mt.23:1-3).
 2. **He forgave our sins** (1 Co.15:17-23 TPT) - a pardon isn’t a pardon unless it is accepted by the “forgiven.”
 3. **Jesus modeled community** - He instantly adopted us into God’s family (Jn.20:17; Ro.8:14-17; Ga.4:5; Eph.1:5; 3:14). From breaking bread on the road to Emmaus, to having breakfast on the beach with His disciples, we see Jesus make time for relationships. Jesus was never too busy to stop and show He cared. As His followers, we’re called to intentionally serve people in our families, workplaces, and cities.
 4. **Jesus redeems mistakes** - even though Peter stumbled in his faith, it didn’t cancel out his identity in Christ. In the same way we can trust that God’s power is made perfect in weakness.
 5. **He provides and gives eternal security**- Jn.21:1-3,11 (contrast w/Lk.5:4-6) - There’s a difference between what was caught and what was kept (He lost none of those God gave Him even while they’re threatened - Jn.18:8-9) - use the golden gate safety net example.



6. **Jesus comforted the broken.**

When Jesus came back, He wasn't frustrated that His disciples hadn't understood His plan. He met them in their uncertainty and fear instead. Jesus consoled the woman weeping at the empty tomb. He eased Thomas' doubts. He spoke words of life and peace (Jn.20:1-10,19,21,26).

Today, our Savior still has grace for our questions and confusion. He still draws near when our hearts are broken.

7. **Jesus instructed and empowered** - Right before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His followers to "go and make disciples of every nation." (Mt.28:18-20).

With these instructions, we're called to live every day with intentionality, looking for opportunities to share the Gospel.

It's our job to show people what it means to know God and to make Him known.

