

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 17TH, 2022 // RESURRECTION WEEKEND

SIN SEPARATES US FROM GOD TEMPTATION AND FALL

In the creation narrative, we see the temptation and fall of man in Genesis 3. By eating the fruit on the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, mankind tried to assume the role of God and decide for ourselves what is right and wrong.

- **We still fall to this temptation today when we replace God's truth of what is right and wrong with relative truth.**

SIN'S CONSEQUENCE

Once sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, they were removed from the Garden and the presence of God. In order to cover themselves, God made clothing from skins and clothed them.

- The slain animal used to provide skins signifies that the "wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) and points to Jesus being the lamb who would be slain in order to cover us for our sins.
- **Isaiah 59:2**

WE ALL PLAYED A PART

We are not excluded from the penalty of sin committed in the garden by Adam and Eve. We cannot think it is unfair or become self-righteous in our goodness. **We do not set the standard for goodness, Jesus does!**

- **"There is no one righteous, not even one."** (Romans 3:10) **"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** (Romans 3:23)
- **Romans 5:12**

JESUS RESTORES US BACK TO GOD OBEDIENT EVEN UNTO DEATH

Philippians 2 tells us that Jesus, while fully God, humbled himself by taking the nature of a servant, was born of a virgin, and **"became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross."**

- Jesus came to **"seek and to save the lost,"** (Luke 19:10) so that **"everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life."** (John 3:15-16)

BETRAYED INTO THE HANDS OF EVIL MEN

There were those that misunderstood what Jesus said and who he claimed to be, and there were others who felt their power and authority was threatened by Jesus. Shortly after being welcomed into Jerusalem, Jesus was betrayed, arrested, beaten, and crucified.

- **"No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay down of my own accord."** (John 10:18)

THE VEIL WAS TORN (MATTHEW 27:50-54) THE TEMPLE

Hebrews 9:1-9 describes a veil that was used to separate the Holy of Holies, the earthly dwelling place of God's presence, from the rest of the temple where men would gather. The veil would have been around 60 feet high and 4 inches thick.

- **The veil was the physical representation of man being separated from God because of sin.**

THE HOLY OF HOLIES

Only the high priest would be allowed to pass through the veil and enter into God's presence. He would **only be permitted to do this once a year** and only after going through a ceremonial cleansing process.

- **Access to the presence of God was limited and exclusive because of sin.**

SIGN OF SUFFICIENCY

The veil being torn at the moment of Jesus' death showed that His obedience, His sacrifice, and the shedding of His blood, was sufficient to atone for our sins.

- When Christ cried out, "It is finished," he was declaring that **the debt owed for sin was completely and forever wiped away! Our sin debt was "paid in full!"**

SIGN OF RECONCILIATION

The veil, a symbol for the barrier our sin creates between us and God, once torn and removed, shows that the relationship is no longer estranged.

- Christ has reconciled us back to God (Rom. 5:10; 2 Cor. 5:18; Col. 1:20-21). **We have been moved from being an enemy of God back to being a friend.**

THE SPIRIT IS ACCESSIBLE TO US

- The spirit of God is no longer in limited and exclusive availability.
- It is no longer the Jewish priest **going into the Holy of Holies** to be in God's presence; instead God's spirit **came out and is accessible to anyone and everyone who would draw close to Him in a relationship with Jesus.**

THE VEIL WAS TORN TOP TO BOTTOM

The size of the veil would have made it impossible to be torn by man or freak accident. Matthew recorded the direction in which the veil was torn to show that the efforts of God and not of the efforts of man.

- The reconciliation of sinful men to a Holy God could **only be accomplished through an act of God** and not the effort of man.

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

The kings walking out of their tombs at Jesus' death was a prelude (a resurrection before the resurrection) to His resurrection.

- This prelude to Jesus' resurrection shows that we are recipients of the new resurrection life. **Just as Christ was brought to life from death, we too can be resurrected from death to life.**

THE RESURRECTION (LUKE 24:1-12) THE VICTORY HAS BEEN WON

The resurrection gives the believer confidence in the power of God. Confidence that one who created life can resurrect it after death. God proves his sovereignty over life and death, and only he can remove the sting and gain victory over the grave. (1 Corinthians 15:54-55)

- **As followers of Jesus, the same spirit that raised Him from the dead now lives in us!**

HE HAS RISEN

Throughout Church history, "He is risen!" is a traditional greeting on Easter with a response of "He is risen, indeed!"

- Has the meaning of these words become an empty tradition, or like the early disciples, are we "amazed at what had happened?" Because He has risen, His death was not in vain and the power to overcome death was displayed.

"WHERE DO WE LOOK?"

The angels asked the woman at the tomb, "why are you looking for the living among the dead?"

- Do we still search for things of the living amongst dead things? Are we trying to find the things of God: hope, peace, joy, and contentment in the world? **The resurrection of Jesus Christ offers us all the things that the world cannot.**

WHAT DOES HIS DEATH MEAN FOR US?

- **Our relationship with God was severed and broken because of sin. Through Jesus' work on the cross, we are restored back to the Father.**
- **Christ has redeemed us! Our freedom has been purchased and we are no longer in bondage to sin.**
- **We can be delivered from the curse of the fall.**

WHAT DOES HIS RESURRECTION MEAN FOR US?

- **We have access to God and his power. The power to cure hopelessness. The power to experience peace and joy.**
- **We have hope in the promise of a present resurrection life, where God means to resurrect the brokenness in our lives now. We also look forward to a future resurrection into eternal life with the one who saved us.**
- **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me"** (John 14:6)