

**“Because He Lives...”**

**Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018**

**In 1 Cor. 15, Paul says two powerful things about Jesus’ resurrection:**

- **In verse 12- he “preaches” it—“to cause a *fresh awakening to a powerful reality*”**
- **In verse 19- IF Jesus hadn’t risen—he would be “*most miserable*” (*helpless, hopeless, depleted, defeated*)—a bad place, not just in a bad mood**

**CORE:** Because Jesus lives—everything has changed. Being raised by Him from the dead affects us NOW...as well as later. Let’s talk about the “NOW.”

**1. NO LONGER DISTANT/SEPARATED.**

- **“Death (*separation*) no longer has dominion” (Romans 6:9)! Sin lost its power to separate us from Him!**
- **“NOTHING can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:35-38)!!!**
- **Though “once far off”—“NOW (we’ve been) BROUGHT NEAR” (Ephesians 2:13)!**
- **Ephesians 2:6- “(God) raised us up with him and *seated us with him* in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”**

NOTE: A necessary part of repentance is realizing that OUR sin cost Jesus His life. **Sobering**—yet, **somber is not to be our permanent state.** He died to bring us into our identity, into our inheritance, and into Father’s house!

- **Colossians 3:1-4- “If then you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God...Your life is *hidden with Christ* in God.”**
  - **“Hidden with”—to be brought into the secret place**
- **Psalm 25:14- The “secrets of the Lord” are shared with “those who fear (*reverence, honor*) Him”**
  - **“Secret counsel” (Christian Standard Bible)**
  - **Lit.- “FRIENDSHIP; the confidential intimacy of trusted friends”**

**Like the High Priest reappearing at the door of the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement—Jesus, our Great High Priest, emerged from the tomb bringing “atonement (*at-one-ment*)...for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).**

## 2. NO LONGER LIFELESS/UNPRODUCTIVE

### One truth that permeates the Bible: GOD LOVES FULLNESS

- “The whole earth IS filled with His glory (*weighty, tangible evidence of His heart*)” (Isaiah 6:3)
- “The earth WILL BE filled with the knowledge (*the weighty, tangible experience of knowing Him intimately*)” (Habakkuk 2:14)
- Ephesians 4:10- “He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.”
- Romans 7:4- “...(we) belong to...him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”
  - Fruit—what’s inside becomes evident outside.
  - “ABIDE IN Me (not strive for Me)—and you will bear **much fruit!**” (John 15:5) (*i.e., who we LOOK TO affects what we LOOK LIKE*)