

Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

Series: "The Kingdom of God"



Easter Message: "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ: The Truth That Sets Us Free"
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Jesus Christ was sent by the Father to bear witness to the truth. The Infinite God-Man, in a voluntary submission of His will to that of His Father, lived a life of radical obedience, humbling Himself even to death on the Cross. Having no personal sin, Jesus fulfilled all righteousness. He is Surety of the Covenant of Grace, sin-bearer, curse bearer, bearer of the wrath of God, and bearer of the glory of God. He died to pay the penalty for sin and was buried.

On the third day, Jesus was raised to life by the power of God. To me personally, that bond of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a bond of love so strong that death could not hold Jesus Christ. Love is as strong as death.

Jesus came that those for whom He died might have life and have it more abundantly. Every believer can be filled with the hope and certainty of eternal life in Christ by believing the truth that sets us free—free from the bondage of sin, free from the power and penalty of sin, and when glorified, free from the presence of sin. The Resurrection of Christ changes everything, from how we understand the will of the Father and the mind of Christ, to how we can walk in resurrection power now, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

1. Acceptance. Jesus came as prophet, priest and king. He said before it happened that He would rise again from the dead on the third day. He established the New Covenant in His Blood, changing and providing a better covenant with better promises and a better worship system based on the sacrifice of Himself once for all time. The Resurrection of Christ gave proof that the Father accepted this Sacrifice given for those who believe in Christ and who belong to Him. Jesus is The Beloved; we are the beloved in Christ. Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-22.

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.... Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his

mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all. Ephesians 1:3-6; 15-22 KJV

2. Eternal life in Christ. The one who has the Son has life. The one who does not have the Son of God does not have life. The Holy Spirit is the Life-Maker. Jesus rose from the dead, a life-giving Spirit. (1 Cor. 15:45) In Him is life. Those who believe in Him have everlasting life.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul, a living creature; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit, a life-giving spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45

3. Sending of the Holy Spirit. John 14:16; Acts 2.

And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, Paraclete, that He may abide with you forever. John 14:16 Geneva Study Bible [G. Parakletos, "one called alongside to help." Translated "advocate," 1Jn 2:1. Christ is the believer's Paraclete with the Father when he sins; the Holy Spirit the believer's indwelling Paraclete to help his ignorance and infirmity and to make intercession Rom 8:26,27.]

<https://biblehub.com/kjv/john/14-16.htm>

4. Union with Christ in His death and resurrection. 1 Cor. 6:17; Col. 2:12

And he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit; 1 Corinthians 6:17 YLT What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:17, 19, 20 KJV

In Him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of your sinful nature, with the circumcision performed by Christ and not by human hands. And having been buried with Him in baptism, you were raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our trespasses,...Colossians 2:11-13 Berean

5. A New Creation. If anyone is in Christ, he/she is a new creation. Old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new. Jesus is the Federal Head of a new humanity. He is the Last Adam. He is the Second Man. Christ is the first fruits, the first of a kind, the prototype. 2 Cor. 5:17; Romans 5:12ff.; Romans 6:4.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised up out from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4 Berean Literal

6. Transformation. True believers have been transformed. We have died and our life is hid with Christ in God. We can change. The Holy Spirit regenerates the heart, which then repents of sin and believes in faith with a hearty reliance on Jesus Christ alone for salvation. We are saved from sin, our own selfish nature, from the world system, and from Satan and the kingdom of darkness. We have been raised to life, to live in Truth, to freedom. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus sets us free from the Law of sin and death. Perfect love casts out fear. Peace replaces anxiety; faith replaces doubt. The kingdom of Christ replaces the domain of darkness as the believer is transferred into the kingdom of God's dear Son. Colossians 1:12-14; Romans 6; Romans 8:2.

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12-14 NASB

7. Destinies. The Resurrection of Christ turned the Cross, an instrument of death, into triumph. For example, though it took time, the Roman Empire turned from polytheism to Christianity. With the Holy Spirit indwelling believers, the impact multiplied; Christians are the devil's worst nightmare. Believers come into their true destiny—in Christ. Unbelievers face the Judgment. Acts 17:30, 31.

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead. Acts 17:30, 31 NASB

8. Already raised with Christ. Colossians 3:1; Romans 6:4; Ephesians 2:5, 6. Thus the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead raises every true believer, giving life to the mortal body. We have resurrection now.

Therefore, since you have been raised with Christ, strive for the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Colossians 3:1-4 Berean

Therefore, since Christ suffered in His body, arm yourselves with the same resolve, because anyone who has suffered in his body is done with sin. Consequently, he does not live out his remaining time on earth for human passions, but for the will of God. 1 Peter 4:1, 2 Berean

9. Worship. The old is passing away; the new has come. Jesus said that no longer would people worship on this mountain or that mountain; that they would worship in Spirit and in truth. God is Spirit, that's why. Jesus accepted worship. After His resurrection, Thomas came before Jesus and worshiped Him, saying, "**The Lord of me; the God of me.**" See also Hebrews chapters one and two. Baptism and Communion remind Christians of the resurrection of Christ as firstfruits as well as anticipating the future resurrection of the body. Communion is a remembrance of the Lord's death until He

comes. Christ is the prototype, the first of a kind. He has the pre-eminence. He is Lord over all.

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have died fallen asleep. For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under *Him*," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 NKJV

10. The resurrection of Christ is central to the Gospel. It has changed human history. In the Acts of the Apostles the resurrection appears in 12 of 28 chapters, and on every occasion that preaching and teaching occurred. The tomb of Christ is not enshrined; the women found it empty. He is risen!

But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

All flesh *is* not the same flesh, but *there is* one kind [f]of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds.

There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. *There is* one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory.

So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit."

However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are*

heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:35-54 NKJV

“O Death, where *is* your sting?
O Hades, where *is* your victory?”

The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 NKJV Amen.

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