

Luke 24: 1-8 / John 11:25-27 / Isa. 53:4-6 / Eph. 2:4-7

*Man of sorrows / what a name!
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim – Hallelujah! – what a Savior!*

For the past few weeks we have been watching and walking with Jesus in Galilee
As he makes his way to Jerusalem.

We saw him riding on a colt, a symbol of the anointed King,

Returning to claim his inheritance, David's throne.

We saw him rejected, and then delivered to the Sanhedrin to be judged.

And then on Friday we saw him mocked, tortured, and nailed to a cross to die.

Speaking prophetically, the prophet Isaiah saw what would happen

All the events of that day.

God fulfilling his promise to provide a sacrifice for sin. **** slide_1**

Surely our griefs he himself bore,
And our sorrows he carried;
yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken,
smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our well-being fell upon him,
And by his scourging we are healed. **** Slide_2**

All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on him.

Isa. 53:4-6 //

What happened on that Cross?

We saw a man die.

But not only a man. A just man. A man who had not sinned.

And a man who united/ in one nature / both man and God.

As Paul puts it,

"In him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form." (Col. 2:9)

His life was infinite, and his ability to bear sin was also / infinite.

Death could not hold him!

And the Law / could not judge him!

When death took him, it suddenly found that its power was broken.

It was as if a dogs leash was placed on a blue whale.

And not only death was destroyed, but the power of the Law.

And we have these incredible verses in the book of Romans –

Verses that took the darkness from many great souls –

From Martin Luther, from John and Charles Wesley and others-

A charter of Christian freedom! Ro. 8 **** Slide_3**

*"The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free
From the law of sin and of death.*

*For what the law could not do, weak as it was
Through the flesh, God did: sending his own Son
As an offering for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh."*

And what did that do for us?

"In order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us."

It wasn't just Jesus who was nailed to the Cross.

*If we look only on the outward events,
Then we see no more than the Roman guards saw.*

Paul tells us that the judgments against us were also nailed there – Col. 2:14.

*And when you were dead in your transgressions --
He made you alive together with Him*

Having forgiven all our transgressions

*Having cancelled out the certificate of debt
consisting of decrees against us / and which was hostile to us..*

Having nailed it to the Cross..

The certificate of debt – nailed to the cross?

What does it mean?

Our debts are PAID IN FULL!

He himself is our peace.

Or as Paul puts it in Galatians –

*“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law,
Having become a curse for us” (3:13) /*

This is all incredible.

But there is one other thing we need to remember about the Cross.

It wasn't just Jesus who was hanging there.

And this must have been the final shock to the enemy of our souls.

Listen to Paul on this.

“I have been crucified / with Christ” Gal. 2:20

Ok, wait a minute.

Maybe Paul was off his medications that day.

Let's go back to Romans – that book was written more carefully.

Chapter 6.

In verse 3 Paul asks us a question.

*“Do you not know that all of us / who have been baptized into Christ Jesus
have been baptized into his death?”*

*What? Can this be true? ** Slide_4*

Let's follow Paul a bit longer here –

*"If we have been united with him in his death,
surely we shall also be united in his resurrection."*

"Knowing this, that our old self / was crucified with him"

And "he who has died is freed from sin."

The point Paul is making –

Remember Isaiah 53

by his scourging / WE / are healed.

All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;

*But the Lord has caused/ the iniquity of us all
To fall on him.*

At the Cross there is a great exchange.

We don't understand this mystery – we only trust God's word and live in the truth of it.

How does this work? We know a few things --

God lives both within / and outside time.

In his eye all history is *today*.

And in some way we cannot understand, this is what happened.

Looking down on all history / at the moment of Jesus death,

God commanded that all sin / for all time
should be gathered up / and placed into the body of Jesus.

All the darkness.

All the evil.

All the brokenness.

Death and Hell.

And not only the darkness, but the powers and dominions themselves

Were broken by Jesus death and resurrection - Col. 2:15

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities – He made a public display of them”

When their Creator died, their power was broken. /

We don't know the mechanism for all this.

It's a mystery.

One writer pictures it like this:

As the very first nail is placed on the wrist of Jesus, God gives a command

And in that fraction of a second the Archangels fly backward and forward in time.

Existing in pure light, time is no barrier for them.

One retrieves the Body of Adam.

Another retrieves the tablets of stone from the mercy seat in the temple

-- The tablets of the Law.

Michael and Gabriel, the strongest Archangels, find Death
and carry that dreaded Angel / bodily to Golgotha.

All of these are thrown bodily into the body of Christ.

And when that hammer falls,

All these Powers are themselves nailed to the Cross. (HAMMER)

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But one more thing: “Our old self was crucified with him.” Ro. 6:6

Somehow / you and I / hung on that Cross in Christ.

1 Cor. 15:22 reads, “As in Adam all die, so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

Jesus, the second Adam, born of the seed of the Spirit,

somehow carried us all / in his own person.

I too was on that Cross, and when Jesus died

I too / died to the Law / and to the judgements against me.

And when Jesus rose from the grave, I too could say, (HAMMER)

“PAID IN FULL” / ** Slide_5

John Wesley writes

Jesus! Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are – my glorious dress!
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in Thy great day;
For who aught to my charge shall lay?

Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame. (see also #276)

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So all these things happened on the Cross.

But that is only half the story.

If all that happened on the Cross – what follows?

If this is what happened in Jesus death –

What happens in his resurrection life?

Try this picture: from the song written by Charles Wesley --

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off! My heart was free!
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee!*

We were all bound in heavy chains.

At the Cross the chains fall off – and the jail door opens.

What will we do next?

Resurrection gives us the power to begin the journey.

Following the resurrection, Christ ascended.

Col 2 – we are raised with Christ.

But not only that, we are seated with him / in heavenly places.

Paul writes

*But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions— it is by grace you have been saved. ** Slide_6*

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. Eph 2:4-7

What does this mean?

There are two points here.

1. I am raised with Christ
2. I am seated with Christ in heavenly places

Galatians 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ
And it is no longer I who live, But Christ who lives in me.*

I died on the Cross of Christ.

What you see here is the same old body, but a new spirit man.

There is nothing wrong with this body per se – except that it is dying.

*2 Cor. 4: 16 - But though our outer man is perishing,
Our inner man is being renewed day by day..*

We are already – being transformed.

And this will not be just a spiritual transformation,

It will be physical - into a new kind of body -1 Cor. 15.

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What is going on here?

Whatever happened to Christ, happened to us.

And in the eyes of God, from the perspective of eternity, it is already done.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17.

*For Christ's love compels us,
because we are convinced that one died for all,
and therefore all died. And he died for all,
that those who live should no longer live for themselves
but for him who died for them and was raised again.*

*So from now on we regard no one from a
worldly point of view.
Though we once regarded Christ in this way,
we do so no longer.*

*Therefore,
if anyone is in Christ, new creation!
The old has gone, the new is here! ** Slide_7*

What is this "new creation?" It seems important to Paul.

In Galatians 6 he writes,

*"May it never be that I should boast
except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision,
But a new creation."*

The new creation, Paul says, is all that counts.

It's all that counts.

I don't care if you are religious, or unreligious.

Are you "In Christ?"

I don't care if you are Baptist, Mennonite or Anglican.

Is he alone your righteousness – your hope? /

"From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view."

What is Paul getting at?

"One died for all, therefore all died."

If you / were in Christ / on that Cross on Calvary.

Then you were transformed.

I can no longer see you from a worldly point of view.

Old things have passed away – your old self, and all the judgements against you are gone.

History!

Wiped clean!

This is why Paul can write,

There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Ro 8:1).

What shall we say to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Who will bring a charge against God's elect?

Well, we know who will accuse us.

The enemy will not stop accusing us.

What do we answer to him? **** Slide_8**

PAID IN FULL.

I am crucified with Christ.

Through Christ / I died to the Law.

The life I live I live in the Son of God.

No righteousness of my own I claim

but fully lean on Jesus Name.

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Eph 2:6 - I am seated with Christ in heavenly places.

When I was saved, and for most of my first five years or so as a believer

I had no idea that this was my destiny.

Forgiveness was pretty good – I guess maybe I didn't need to know the rest.

The Westminster Confession says that the purpose of salvation

is so that we can love God / and enjoy him forever.

What it does not say / is that we will also rule and reign with Him / forever.

But there is no making sense of the book of Acts until we understand this.

Paul says, The Gospel is not in words – but in POWER

And we won'tt be effective as ambassadors
unless we understand the authority we have in Christ.

Can you imagine hiring someone as an Ambassador

But giving them NO authority to act for you?

Crazy. It never happens.

Where do we get this authority?

Ephesians 1:20 When Christ is raised God seats him - where?

“at his right hand in the heavenly places.”

In ancient culture

the highest power and privilege in the kingdom was for the King's right hand.

Christ now reigns

“Far above / all rule and authority /

and power and dominion / and every name that is named”

Jesus reigns!

When we come to Ephesians 2 we get this shock –

That WE / are seated with Him – //

How much authority does Jesus have from that position?

- SOME authority?

In the last chapter of Matthew Jesus says to the disciples,

ALL AUTHORITY has been given to me – in heaven and earth—

GO THEREFORE and make disciples of all nations.

And then John 20 “*As the Father has sent me / so I send you*”

And then we see this being worked out in the book of ACTS.

Before, Jesus was healing and casting out demons..

NOW the disciples are doing the same work – walking in the same authority.

What happened?

At the end of Luke's gospel we hear Jesus –

“I am sending the promise of the Father on you..” (24:49)

And then in Luke's second volume we read what happened at the ascension:

*“You will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come up on you..*

And you will be my witnesses.. (1:8)

And then in chapter 2 we witness Pentecost.

And everything changes.. **everything!**

The future kingdom breaks into our world
in ordinary men and women / who have received / the power of the age to come.

Because we are died and raised with Christ.

We sit with Jesus in heavenly places.

This is what we are about, demonstrating / and declaring / that God reigns.

*We are the firstfruits of a new creation
–a sign and a foretaste of the kingdom of God. ** Slide_9*

We – have eternal life.

We – have authority to forgive sins. John 20:23

We – have authority to bind and to loose. Matthew 18:18

Are you carrying heavy burdens around?

Did you know you can leave them at the Cross?

Did you know that when you pray for someone –

It is as if you stand at the foot of the Cross – in the spirit –

It is as if Jesus prays through you -

and we have authority to nail that stuff to the tree - Just like that certificate of judgement.

Easter and the resurrection / are not facts like other facts.

Yes, it is a historical fact. *But it is a CURRENT reality.*

Because / Jesus / lives.

And because the power of the age to come.. the living Spirit.. is among us.

And because you and I / are seated with Christ.

His resurrection – is our resurrection.

His authority – is our authority.

What is the difference between power and authority?

Let's say I go to the beach in June, and I'm lying in the sand.

And a big guy.. six foot six and 225 pounds runs by and kicks sand in my face.

Nothing I can do about it.

I don't have the power to take him on.

But suppose I have five friends with me.

And they are all linebackers.

And I stand up and they all stand up with me.

I don't have any power, but I have a LOT of authority.

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But what is this "new creation" theme? **** Slide_10**

And why is it so critical to Paul?

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Because Jesus is Lord of all.

Jesus resurrection and ascension crown him as King over everything.

He is Lord of earth and heaven.

But often we have made salvation all about the next world.

There are at least two problems with this.

First, because the resurrection is a physical resurrection.

And because our new life will also be a physical life.

There is no NT teaching about disembodied spirits.

Rather, Paul is clear in 1 Cor. 15 and other places that we will have bodies –

But a new kind of body – like the one Jesus has.

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Second, because salvation is not something to take us out of this world,

But to anchor us IN it.

This is why we pray the prayer of the kingdom

May your kingdom come ON EARTH – as it is in heaven.

We have tended to shrink salvation down to a spiritual exchange
or something in the future.

But what does Jesus say?

I came that they might have LIFE – and that more abundantly.

For Paul and Jesus it is about SHALOM –

About the restoration of all things..

All things made new,

And wholeness in body and spirit, with no more separation.

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There is not only a new heaven coming but a new EARTH.

And so healing – and eternal life –

Begin here and now.

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God's rule is something that comes to earth.

It is both present – and future –

And when the new Jerusalem descends from above

We will reign with Christ over a new world.

Yet that rule begins today –

Because Jesus IS LORD.

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The resurrection was the beginning of a new world.

Jesus has defeated sin and death.

Death couldn't hold him.

The Law couldn't judge him.

*And "In Christ" we are free! ** Slide_11*

*No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in Him is mine
Alive in Him – my living Head!
And clothed with righteousness divine.*

*Bold I approach the eternal throne
And claim the crown through Christ my own. Charles Wesley
Amen.*

Benediction

*"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Rev. 5*

*"To him who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!"*