

RESURRECTION 2025
MARK 16:1-8
EXCLAMATION MARK!

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to Mark chapter 16 as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I have called our study this morning – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

And when you think about the resurrection of Jesus Christ it is the ultimate exclamation mark!

And I think we all understand what an exclamation mark is. It is adding to the sentence the fact that this is of major significance, it is important, it is of major interest to us!

Now we all have what we might call exclamation marks in our life.

For instance, our marriage is a huge one. Then there is the birth of our children. Others may be buying a house, or getting that job you have been waiting for!

And here, if I asked you to describe this day, the day that Jesus rose from the tomb, but you could only use a punctuation mark, it should be an – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

But for some, it may only be a – ***COMMA!***

What do I mean by that?

I mean that you may stop and think about this event in history, you may listen to what this day is all about, but that is where it ends, with a pause and nothing more!

For others, it may just be a – ***PERIOD!***

What do I mean by that?

For you it is just like any other day. There is really no significance to it. It happened and it is really not a big deal to you and you end this day and begin another day!

And for others, it may just be a – ***QUESTION MARK!***

What do I mean by that?

You are confused about what this day is all about. Why do so many people gather in churches on this day? Why is this day so special?

If that is where you are at, at one of those punctuation marks this morning, I pray that as you hear the story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ that that ***COMMA*** or that ***PERIOD*** or that ***QUESTION MARK*** would be changed to an – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

Let me share this with you and I will show you how easily it is to be confused on an issue and especially the issue of death. I will explain more about that in a minute.

We are told,

One Easter morning, a woman was on her way to church when her car broke down.

Not wanting to be late for the special service, she ordered an Uber to pick her up.

The car arrived, and she quickly jumped in the back.

Halfway through the ride, she asked the driver a question, but the driver didn't respond.

So she leaned forward and tapped the driver on the arm.

The driver let out a loud scream, swerved into the other lane, almost hit another car, slammed on the brakes, and skidded over to the shoulder.

The woman and driver sat in silence for a minute from the shock of what just happened.

Finally, she said apologetically, ***“Wow, I’m so sorry. I had no idea that tapping your shoulder would alarm you like that.”***

“No, you really didn’t do anything wrong. It’s just that it’s my first day driving an Uber. You see, for the past 25 years, I’ve been driving a hearse.”

For the disciples of Jesus, when they heard He was dead, lots of confusion.

And that is true of us. When a loved one dies, there is much confusion about where they are at.

But this story of the resurrection of Jesus gives us the hope, the assurance, that as Jesus rose from the grave, one day we also will receive our resurrection bodies.

Because of that there is no fear, no **COMMA**, no **PERIOD**, no **QUESTION MARK**, but only a big – **EXCLAMATION MARK!**

Here in Mark chapter 16, we are going to read over the story of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and then we are going to look at why this is so important to us.

Let's pick up our study this morning in Mark chapter 16 beginning in verse 1 and let's see what the Lord has for us as we study His Word and look at this topic of the resurrection of Jesus the – **EXCLAMATION MARK!**

MARK 16:1-8

The Sabbath was past and now, early Sunday morning these women go to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body with spices.

Make no mistake about it, they loved the Lord, and this love was manifested in what they were going to do.

Now you may be wondering why they were doing this, anointing the body of Jesus, because when Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea, took the body of Jesus, and according to John 19, they wrapped Jesus with strips of linen and on the linen strips they also placed 100 pounds of myrrh mixed with aloe.

Wasn't that enough?

Keep in mind that this was done very quickly and thus, these women came to do a better job you might say. To finish the work that was started!

Now in John chapter 20 we are told that Mary Magdalene arrived ahead of the other women at the tomb, before the sun was up and she finds the tomb empty and runs and tells Peter and John what she saw.

They in turn ran and also found the tomb empty.

Then Mary, at the tomb, sees the risen Lord!

Now as these other women arrive, they are wondering who will roll the stone from the door of the tomb so they could get in?

But as they arrived the stone was rolled away; the soldiers were gone, and I wonder what was going through their minds at this point?

And as they look into the tomb to see the body of Jesus, they instead see this angel. Luke tells us there were two angels there.

And I believe that these two angels stood there, one on one side of where the body of Jesus was placed and the other on the other side, what it signifies, is very interesting to me.

I love the picture because if you remember, in the Holy of Holies, in both the Tabernacle and then in the Temple, there was the Ark of the Covenant.

Let me show you what I mean. In Exodus 25:17-22 we are told, **“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”**

Look at how this plays out for us.

On the Ark of the Covenant was the Mercy Seat.

Inside the Ark of the Covenant were tablets of stone that contained the Law.

And on the lid of the Ark of the Covenant were two angels or cherubim.

And we are told that God was above the Mercy Seat.

Then, on the Day of Atonement, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies, place the blood on the Mercy Seat for him and for the nation, and then leave.

Thus, as God looked down upon the Mercy Seat covered in blood, there is the picture of atonement as the blood on the Mercy Seat covered the tablets of the Law which was inside the Ark of the Covenant!

Our God is amazing.

These angels stood on either side of where the body of Jesus was placed, and we are told that He is our Mercy Seat!

And now, here in Mark I believe the picture is that our Lord shed His blood to atone for our sins, He is our Mercy Seat, as I have said!

In I John 2:1-2 we see this spoken of. This is not something that I came up with, it is what the Scriptures are showing us, that Jesus has become our Mercy Seat.

Listen to what John tells us. **“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”**

Make no mistake about it, we are not perfect in a practical sense, we do sin.

But the wonderful news is that when we come to Christ, when we repent of our sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of our lives, we are adopted into the family of God by faith, and we are perfect in a positional sense.

You see, as the Father looks upon us the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed us from all our sins, we are as white as snow!

But what happens when we do sin, and we will?

When we do sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, a defense attorney, Jesus Christ!

The Greek word for **“advocate”** is ***PARAKLETOS***, which means ***“one who speaks . . . in our defense.”***

But how does Jesus defend us, how does He refute the accusations that Satan brings against us?

Make no mistakes about it, he does bring accusations, charges against us and we are guilty of those crimes.

In Revelation 12:10 we are told of this. Listen carefully. John wrote, “**Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’**”

Then what happens when he brings those charges against us?

Our defense attorney, Jesus Christ steps forward and speaks in our defense.

But if we are guilty, and we are, how can we be set free from those charges against us?

Because our *advocate* has become our *propitiation* or *atonement* for our sins.

You see, God became sin for us, He paid in full the penalty for our sins, enduring the wrath of God that was due us!

Thus, Jesus does not defend us by manipulating the evidence because we are guilty before God.

What He does do is say that our penalty was paid in full by Him, and He can show the scales to prove it!

CASE CLOSED!

What is interesting to me is when they were translating the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek, back around 250 B. C., the Greek word they used for *Mercy Seat* is the same Greek word that John uses for “**propitiation**”, *HILASMOS!*

In other words, on the Day of Atonement, when the High Priest entered the Holy of Holies and poured out the blood upon the Mercy Seat to atone for the sins of the nation, and his own sins, John is telling us that Jesus has become our Mercy Seat, and it is His blood that was shed to atone completely for our sins!

In fact, Paul tells us in Hebrews 7:25, **“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”**

In regard to this word **“propitiation,”** Alford tells us: *“The word implies that Christ has, as our sin-offering, reconciled God and us by nothing else but by His voluntary death as a sacrifice: has by this averted God’s wrath from us.”*

Listen to what Peter said in I Peter 3:18, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

You see, sin is no longer a barrier between God and man, if you receive Jesus as your propitiation for your sins! Yes, sin can hinder our fellowship with God, but our salvation is secure in Him!

Now, back here in Mark we see that fear began to rise in these women and what does this angel tell them?

He tells them not to be afraid, Jesus is not dead, He is risen!

Make no mistake about it, that is an – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

Now these women are sent back as witnesses, to tell the others that Jesus is not dead, He is risen.

And go and tell Peter because He needs to hear this. You see, Peter was discouraged by his own actions, his own failure, his denying the Lord and God wants to encourage him before He restores him.

Now in verse 8 when it says that **“they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid”** does not mean they did not tell the apostles what they saw, what the angel told them.

We know from Mark 16:11 and Luke 24:9 that they did!

What we see here is that they did not discuss this among themselves as they were traveling. They did not try to figure things out. They believed and told the apostles what they saw and heard!

I bet there was silence as they were walking. Imagine trying to take this all in!

Also, this word **“afraid”** is not speaking of terror.

Morgan tells us, *“These women left the tomb, and fled. Seized with trembling, and astonishment; – the actual Greek word there is ‘ecstasy,’ – seized with trembling and ecstasy, filled with fear; so they fled.”*

And yes, fear can stop us dead in our tracks, it can prevent us from doing things we need to do. But love and faith can overcome that.

In fact, Matthew tells us that Jesus appeared to them to comfort them, to encourage them, which worked, for they did go and tell the others that He is risen!

Folks, the Lord will do no less for us!

Now I think we all understand the importance of Jesus being the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world. That He was that sacrifice for us as His shed blood, this sacrifice has cleansed us from all our sins!

Let me show you what I mean because I truly believe many do struggle with this and they feel that they have blown it and God can't forgive them.

I think these Scriptures should clear that up for you.

First of all, in Micah 7:19 we are told, **“He will again have compassion on us, And will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”**

And please understand that when Micah wrote that our sins are cast **“into the depths of the sea”** it is a Hebrew metaphor simply meaning that something is so far away and beyond reach that it can never be recovered.

And yet, how many of us go fishing, trying to bring up those sins and we let Satan beat us up. Don't go fishing, those sins are gone, and they can *NEVER* be recovered again!

If that is not good enough for you, here is another one.

In Psalm 103:12 we are told, **“As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.”**

This verse should be such a comfort to us. That our sins are cast as far as the east is from the west!

And maybe you have not thought about that much, but let me ask you a question so you will think about this.

Does the east ever meet the west?

Absolutely not!

You see, as you are going east that will never end because the farther you go east, you keep going in that direction and it will never end. That is how far our sins have been cast away through the shed blood of Jesus Christ!

Now if the Psalmist said that our sins have been cast as far as the north is from the south, that would not be good. You see, you can travel north and get to the north pole and then you would be traveling south! The north and the south do meet!

But please understand what God is saying here. That our sins have been removed completely!

I know, you might be thinking, *“As true as that may be, I still remember those sins!”*

Stop it!

God does not remember them, and if He doesn’t why are you?

In Isaiah 43:25 we are told, **“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.”**

I hope that is clear because if it is not, you are going to beat yourself up, you are going to feel like a failure because you didn’t live up to some kind of standard you have set. God loves you, He died for you, and there is no longer any record of your past sins, your present sins and your future sins!

If that is all true, and it is, then why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so important to us. Why is it the – ***EXCLAMATION MARK*** in our lives?

Paul speaks of why the resurrection of Jesus Christ is so important to us. And he makes some powerful points regarding this event.

I think it is important that we understand this. If we don’t then we will have a ***COMMA***, or ***PERIOD***, or ***QUESTION MARK***, about this. But what we truly want is a big – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

Listen to what Paul tells us in I Corinthians 15:12-19, **“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.”**

Paul just showed us that the resurrection of Christ was true, it did happen.

How did he prove that?

He did that by listing a bunch of eyewitnesses to the resurrection, many who were still living when Paul wrote this letter. That means they could have checked out for themselves if they did not believe Paul.

But here was the problem.

Yes, the Corinthian Christians didn't deny the resurrection of Jesus, but they did deny their own resurrection.

You see, they were influenced either by Greek philosophy (which considered the resurrection undesirable, thinking the state of *“pure spirit”* was superior), or by the thinking of the Sadducees (which thought the world beyond to be just wishful thinking).

The bottom line is that the Corinthian Christians believed we lived forever, but not in resurrected bodies.

But here is the problem.

Paul is showing them that if they deny their own resurrection then you have to deny the resurrection of Jesus, you can't have one without the other!

This is not pick one and ignore the other. You see, it is all or nothing.

And I will stick with what Jesus said in John 14:19, **“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.”**

He lives, He rose from the grave in a glorified body and that means that we will live and have a glorified body one day!

Now to deny this Paul tells them that if Christ did not rise from the dead then what Paul and the apostles were preaching was empty, there was nothing to it, which brings them to an empty faith!

Secondly, if they were preaching a resurrected Christ and knew that He did not rise from the dead, they didn't see Him, they would be liars and people would have believed a lie!

But even worse, if Christ did not rise from the dead then our faith is empty, and we are still lost in our sins!

Martin Luther put it like this, ***“Everything depends on our retaining a firm hold on this doctrine in particular; for if this one totters and no longer counts, all the others will lose their value and validity.”***

And Spurgeon wrote, ***“If Jesus rose, then this gospel is what it professes to be; if He rose not from the dead, then it is all deceit and delusion.”***

Do you see how important the resurrection of Christ is?

You see, if death had power over Jesus, if He was defeated by death, then Jesus is not God and if He is not God then He can't pay the penalty for our sins!

And Paul takes this to the logical conclusion as he continues on here. He says that if Christ hasn't risen from the dead then those that have died in Christ have perished, there is no hope, life is over!

And then the nail in the coffin if this is true. You see, if we have placed our hope in this empty faith, if we are still in our sins, then we are the biggest fools around!

In fact, we are the most pitiable, the most pathetic people around!

But Paul is not going to leave us in this hopeless condition for he tells us, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”** I Corinthians 15:20.

Let me share these words from Spurgeon who tells us, *“The fact is, that the sliver thread of resurrection runs through all the blessings, from regeneration onward to our eternal glory, and binds them together.”*

Look at how it is played out in our lives:

The divinity of Jesus rests on the resurrection of Jesus – **“and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”** Romans 1:4.

The sovereignty of Jesus rests on the resurrection of Jesus - **“For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.”** Romans 14:9.

Our justification rests on the resurrection of Jesus – **“who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”** Romans 4:25.

Our regeneration rests on the resurrection of Jesus – **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”** I Peter 1:3.

Our ultimate resurrection rests on the resurrection of Jesus – **“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”** Romans 8:11.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is so important that our faith rests in the fact that He did rise from the dead!

Most of you remember Houdini, the great magician. Houdini claimed that on the 50th anniversary of his death he would come back from the dead.

Thus, on that date a group of his followers gathered together at his grave site in San Francisco waiting for him to return, and they waited, and waited and nothing happened, maybe he got lost?

You see, the tomb of Jesus is empty, He did rise from the dead!

Again, listen to what Paul says in I Corinthians 15:20-22, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have 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.”**

Now we need to understand this point that Paul makes regarding Firstfruits.

Firstfruits was a Jewish feast that took place on the day after the Sabbath following Passover, on Sunday!

At this feast, which took place in the spring, they would bring a sheaf of grain and wave it before the Lord and it represented a fruitful harvest that was to come as they gave to the Lord. (Leviticus 23:9-14).

Here is the interesting part regarding this feast. Jesus rose from the dead on the Feast of Firstfruits and thus, as Paul said in Romans 6:5, **“For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.”**

Trapp put it like this, *“As in the Firstfruits offered to God, the Jews were assured of God’s blessing on the whole harvest; so by the resurrection of Christ, our resurrection is insured.”*

It is as Paul said in Romans 8:23, **“Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”**

What a glorious promise that God has given to us, that we will be raised in a new body one day!

Why can’t these bodies be raised up?

Paul explains that as he shows us that through Adam, we have all be born into that sin nature and with it came spiritual death, separation from God. And these bodies of flesh and blood can’t inherit the Kingdom of God because of sin and thus, we must be changed, we must get new bodies for our spirit and soul to dwell in!

Make no mistake about it, without the cross and the empty tomb, there is no Christian faith!

So what is the evidence?

First of all, Bible scholar Wilbur Smith explains why this is so important. He wrote, ***“When he said He would rise again from the dead, the third day after He was crucified, He said something that only a fool would dare say if He expected the devotion of any disciples – unless He was sure He was going to rise.”***

That should just make sense. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, why in the world would the apostles risk their lives for a lie? They wouldn't and all of them except John died a martyr's death, a horrible death. At least one would have caved in and said it was a lie, but they didn't!

Think about this for a minute, the transformed lives of the apostles. Morison said that the resurrection must have happened as he acknowledged, ***“Whoever comes to this problem has sooner or later to confront a fact that cannot be explained away . . . This fact is that . . . a profound conviction came to the little group of people – a change that attests to the fact that Jesus had risen from the grave.”***

And if Jesus did not rise from the dead, the lie would be exposed. You could not cover it up in an area like Jerusalem.

And it was not just word of mouth that spoke of the resurrection of Jesus, like I have said. There were over 500 eyewitnesses who saw the risen Lord. That is good enough to convict someone in a courtroom and Paul tells us that many were still alive when he wrote I Corinthians and you could go and ask them for yourself if you were still unsure!

We also see that Professor J. N. D. Anderson, the author of *“Evidence for the Resurrection”* concurs. He wrote, *“Think of the psychological absurdity of picturing a little band of defeated cowards cowering in an upper room one day and a few days later transformed into a company that no persecution could silence – and then attempting to attribute this dramatic change to nothing more convincing than a miserable fabrication . . . That simply wouldn’t make sense.”*

Think about what transpired in a very short period of time, as Morison tells us, *“Within twenty years, the claim of these Galilean peasants had disrupted the Jewish church . . . In less than fifty years it had begun to threaten the peace of the Roman Empire . . .”*

By all rights, if there were no resurrection, Christianity should have died out at the cross when the disciples fled for their lives. But the apostles went on to establish a growing Christian movement.

To me, this is the most compelling evidence. That is the resurrection of Jesus Christ was put on trial, the evidence is overwhelming that the tomb is empty, that Jesus rose from the grave!

Doubt that?

Then listen to what one brilliant lawyer did.

Dr. Simon Greenleaf decided to put Jesus’ resurrection on trial by examining the evidence.

Greenleaf helped Harvard Law School gain widespread credibility. He also wrote the three-volume legal masterpiece *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*, which has been called the *“greatest single authority in the entire literature of legal procedure.”* The U.S. judicial system today still relies on rules of evidence established by Greenleaf.

Greenleaf wondered if Jesus’ resurrection would hold up in a court of law.

Focusing his brilliant legal mind on the facts of history, Greenleaf began applying his rules of evidence to the case of Jesus' resurrection.

The more Greenleaf investigated the record of history, the more evidence he discovered supporting the claim that Jesus had indeed risen from the tomb.

He documents his case for Jesus' resurrection in his book, *Testimony of the Evangelists*.

So, what was that evidence?

Greenleaf observed several dramatic changes that took place shortly after Jesus died, the most baffling being the behavior of the disciples.

He argues, *“it would have been impossible for the disciples to persist with their conviction that Jesus had risen if they hadn't actually seen the risen Christ.”*

Applying his own rules of evidence to the facts, he accepted the resurrection as the best explanation for the events that took place immediately following Jesus' crucifixion.

Many other legal experts, including former Chief Justice of England, Lord Darling, agree with Greenleaf's verdict on the case for Jesus' resurrection.

Darling writes, *“There exists such overwhelming evidence . . . factual and circumstantial, that no intelligent jury in the world could fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true.”*

Not only that but we have sources outside the Bible that speak of Jesus not only being a real person, but that He lived and died and rose from the dead!

Let me show you a few of these.

Tacitus (first century AD) wrote about a Christian that suffered under Pontius Pilate (the man who sentenced Christ to death).

Josephus (AD 37-97) says that Jesus died and appeared *“alive”* again to his disciples.

Thallus (AD 52) describes the physical events of Jesus’s death just as they were recorded in Luke 23:44-45.

Jewish sources [tell us this]. The Talmud (AD 70-200) directly references the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

The Toledoth Jesu (fifth century) states that Jesus was in a tomb but was resurrected and not at the tomb when people came to see him days after his death.

[And then there] is [the] Gentile sources. Lucian says that Jesus was the founder of Christianity and was *“crucified”* for it.

Mara Bar-Seraphone was a Syrian (late first century) who wrote a letter to his son describing how the Jews *“executed”* Jesus.

[And then there are what we might call] *“lost”* sources which we do not have copies of, but portions of these writings are quoted in writings that we do have.

The Acts of Pontius Pilate says that in Jesus’s crucifixion he was pierced in his hands and feet.

Phlegon (born in AD 80) wrote that Jesus was alive, died, and arose to life after his death.

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Why am I making such a big deal about the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

Because, apart from the cross and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, there is no Christian faith!

Now here is a question that some may have. ***“Why do we, as Christians, struggle so much with death?”***

Because it is not normal. That is not what God intended when He created man. It was the sin of Adam that brought about death!

In fact, Freud, the father of psychology and the father of messing with people’s heads, said this, ***“And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be.”***

Paul tells us that Freud is wrong, he is not all there because we have victory over death in Christ, the sting is gone!

Jesus has taken the stinger out of death and Paul tells us in Galatians 3:13, and this is from The Amplified Bible, **“Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified); [Deut 21:23.]”**

Jesus has taken the sting of death for us and in doing so removed it so that we can live with Him for eternity!

Let me show you what I mean with this illustration. We are told,

A little girl was having a picnic with her daddy. Deathly allergic to bee stings, she became terrified as a bumblebee buzzed overhead.

Seeing the bee, her father caught it and held it in his hand for a few seconds before letting it go.

As it buzzed around once more, the little girl cried, ***“Daddy, Daddy, why did you let the bee go.”***

Rather than explain it, the father chose to simply open his hand to show his daughter the stinger embedded in his palm.

The sting of death for this little girl was removed and the sting of death for each of us has been removed by Christ.

But we still will die, right?

Yes, we will, unless we are caught up in the Rapture before we die.

Then Paul was wrong, there is still the sting of death, right?

Wrong!

It is as Paul said in I Corinthians 15:54, **“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.’”**

In other words, when we go home to be with the Lord, when we get our new bodies, there is no more death, no more sickness!

That sting of death has been removed because death no longer has any power over us. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord!

You see, death for the Christian is not the end of life but just the beginning. We are no longer under the Law and its penalty of death – we have been freed in Christ!

Sin brought about death. And the Law showed us how bad we were, how bad we are!

That is not good, but remember what Paul said, **“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** I Corinthians 15:57.

Listen to what Peter wrote in I Peter 1:3-5, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Where is our living hope found?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ and as we place our faith in Him, we will enter into that eternal life with Him and that can never, never be taken away because we are – ***KEPT BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH FAITH FOR SALVATION!***

Remember what I asked you as we opened up our study this morning, how would you describe the resurrection of Jesus Christ using only a punctuation mark?

Some of you may have come in here with the punctuation mark being only a – ***COMMA!***

In other words, just a pause. You have thought about it. You have heard about it. But there is not much more to it than that!

I pray that as you have heard the evidence, what this means to our lives, that you have changed that mark from a – ***COMMA*** to an – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

Some of you may have come in here this morning thinking that you would see the resurrection of Jesus Christ just as a – ***PERIOD!***

In other words, this is just another day. People get dressed up and go to church, but that is as far as it goes. Not a big deal to you!

If that is how you came in here this morning, I pray that as you have heard the evidence, what this means to our lives, and that you have changed that mark from a – ***PERIOD*** to an – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

Then, maybe you came in here and you thought about this day, the resurrection of Jesus Christ as just a – ***QUESTION MARK!***

Maybe you just came here this morning confused about what this day is all about.

You see the Easter eggs, the Easter baskets, people getting all dressed up and you just don't understand what this has to do with anything!

Believe me, that is not what this day is all about as we have seen. We celebrate the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ and what a blessing it is to understand that and believe it!

But even if you understand about the cross and the empty tomb, you are confused about what this all means!

But if that is how you came in here this morning, confused, I pray that as you have heard the evidence, what this means to our lives, that you have changed that mark from a – ***QUESTION MARK*** to an – ***EXCLAMATION MARK!***

As I begin to close our study this morning, let me share this with you.

We are told,

A man took a vacation to Israel with his wife and mother-in-law.

During their time in the Holy Land, his mother-in-law unexpectedly passed away.

The following day, the husband met with the local undertaker to discuss funeral plans.

“In cases like these, there are a couple of options to choose from,” the undertaker explained. ***“You can ship the body home for \$5,000, or you can bury her in the Holy Land for just \$150.”***

The man took a minute to think about it, and then announced his decision to ship her home.

The undertaker, intrigued by his decision, said, ***“That’s an interesting choice. Can I ask why would you pay \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when you can easily bury her here for \$150?”***

The man promptly replied, ***“About 2,000 years ago, a man died and was buried here. Three days later he rose from the dead, and I can’t take that chance!”***

Okay, sorry about that but the reality is that Jesus’ resurrection is more than just a story!

It was and still is the most important and significant event in human history.

The best part is that we can know with confidence that as Christians we will be resurrected and spend eternity with Jesus.

If you have repented of your sins and asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, praise the Lord. Thank Him for the life He has given you here and in the future!

If you haven’t made that decision yet, please do so now. All you need to do is to pray, ***“Lord Jesus. I know that I am a sinner and that my sins have separated me from You. I pray that You would forgive me of my sins and be my Lord and Savior!”***

The moment you make that prayer you are adopted into the family of God and as we have seen, your sins have been cast as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more!

I will close with these words as Jesus is speaking to Martha after the death of her brother Lazarus in John 11:25-26, **“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”**