

THE DAWN OF A NEW DAY

A new day dawned for humanity when Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ We somehow never get tired of reading the incredible account of that resurrection morning recorded in the first ten verses of Matthew 28.
- ❖ We know that the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are historical facts. No objective scholar will dispute that.
- ❖ Even our calendar and chronology of time highlights the resurrection of Christ; the method of dating formulated by Dionysius Exiguus, a 6th century Catholic monk in Italy, has become the one most commonly used. From him we derive our designation of years: AD, or, "Anno Domini," which means, "the year of our Lord", and BC, meaning "before Christ."
- ❖ The resurrection of Jesus Christ that we celebrate today is the essence of what sets Christianity apart from every other religious system.
- ❖ No other "god", so called, has ever died for the sins of his people.
- ❖ No other god has been raised from the dead through his own power.
- ❖ Nowhere else do we see divinity and humanity fused together into one being as we see in the 'God-man' Jesus Christ.
- ❖ On Good Friday we commemorated the crucifixion of Jesus that Jerusalem witnessed more than two thousand years ago.
- ❖ The apostle John tells us that Jesus died with the words "it is finished" on His lips as He fully and finally fulfilled all the requirements of the old covenant and breathed His last breath (John 19:30). That day, that era, that dispensation had come to an end.
- ❖ As a number of women came to the tomb on Sunday morning to embalm Jesus' body, they wondered who would roll the stone away from the tomb for them? But instead of finding Roman soldiers standing guard at the tomb (which they had been doing since Friday night), the women saw no soldiers, that the stone was rolled away, and an angel was sitting on top of it!
- ❖ They had trouble comprehending what their eyes were seeing and what their ears were hearing, but they were very sure they heard the angel say, "He is not here. He is risen!!"
- ❖ It was the dawn of a new day. It wasn't just another Sunday morning. It was, in fact, the greatest day in human history: Resurrection Day. It was the beginning of a new era, a new beginning for time!
- ❖ But Easter Sunday is not simply a celebration of Jesus' victory over death, hell and the grave. We celebrate because of what His resurrection means for us.
- ❖ His resurrection proves Jesus' claim that He was, in fact, the "I AM," the Almighty, Everlasting God (John 8:58).
- ❖ His resurrection guarantees forgiveness of sins and eternal life for all who believe.

- ❖ His resurrection guarantees that we can receive His gift of the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Without His resurrection, nothing else Jesus said or did would have provided the slightest benefit to us. He would have been just another dead holy man, devoid of any power to save. It would have been just as the Jews had said: He saved others, but He couldn't save Himself (Matt. 27:42).
- ❖ Yes, Jesus died, but the truth is, HE ROSE AGAIN. And He offers His free gift of eternal life to each and every one of us!
- ❖ Jesus' death, burial and resurrection inaugurated a new day of hope, a new day of peace with God, a new day of everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ❖ Every child of God remembers the day they believed in Jesus Christ and asked Him to forgive their sins, cleanse them from every ungodly word and deed and save them by His grace.
- ❖ And, yes, He still gives the gift of eternal life to all who come to Him in faith. You too can experience the dawn of a new day in *your* life. It's resurrection day!
- ❖ Some of you had an actual physical sensation of the weight of sin being lifted from your shoulders as you were immersed in the waters of baptism in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. In that act, you symbolically participated in His death, burial and resurrection; your sins were forgiven, and you became a new creation in Christ.
- ❖ Best of all, Jesus Christ himself baptized you in the Holy Spirit and into the body of Christ, sealing you as His own.
- ❖ This is what the resurrection of Jesus means to us and what He offers to all who will receive Him: a new life and the dawning of a new day.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

- Are there events in your life that you typically celebrate every year? What are they and why/how do you or others mark the occasion?
- What things do you do to celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ? What can you do to mark such a special occasion?
- In your opinion, if Jesus had not died for your sins, what do you believe your state in life would have been?
- Take time to give God thanks.

Prayer Time

Start-up: What is your normal time for getting up to go to work? Now, if you don't have to go to work, what time do you actually roll out of bed?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.
(Reminds me/Confirms) (New idea) (Think about)

! (Do this) (Speaks to my heart) (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group Family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD