

Easter Sunday

Two Life-Changing Phrases

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / April 17, 2022

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-22 “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ²and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then He appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me...”

“¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord.

Response: ***Thanks Be To God!***

I. “It is finished.” (John 19:30)

The worst thing that could happen to you has already happened to you in Christ when He died on the cross.

Galatians 2:20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

The Bible presents an inseparable link between sin and death.

Romans 3:23-25 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.”

James 1:14-15 “But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. ¹⁵Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

II. **“He has risen!”** (Matt. 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6)

The best thing that could happen to you has already happened to you in Christ when He rose from the grave!

Ephesians 2:4-7 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ **and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** ⁷ so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 6:4 “We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.**”

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 “When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ⁵⁵ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Community Group Discussion:

1. What truth(s) from the sermon were great to hear again? Which one(s) were new to you?
2. Pastor Peter said, “The worst thing that could happen to you has already happened to you in Christ when He died on the cross.” What does that mean? How does that impact your life?
3. Pastor Peter said, “The best thing that could happen to you has already happened to you in Christ when He rose from the grave!” What does that mean? How does that impact your life?
4. Does Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection from the grave bring you peace concerning your own death? Why or why not?
5. How can you fill in the blanks below?

I was _____.

But God _____.

So now, _____.