

Jesus Changes Everything

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 17-22.

Jesus changes everything!

If you haven't experienced how Jesus changes everything in your life my plan is to make it so desirable, you decide to step out.

Let's see what Paul says about the subject. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8.**

What is Paul saying is the best thing? Jesus died, was buried, and rose again!

Two thousand years ago, God the Son (the alpha and omega... the beginning and the end... the prince of peace, the everlasting Father, the Mighty God) LEFT - all the glories of heaven, put on human flesh and entered human history.

Since the dawn of creation, the overriding theme of human History has been God's passionate pursuit of a prodigal people. The story of a loving God doing whatever it takes (and I mean, absolutely whatever it takes... God so loved the world...) to bring people back to Himself.

God's passion was unleashed in all its fullness through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection... and it changed everything!

On a Sunday morning over 2000 years ago a couple of ladies got up early before the sun had even risen in the sky. What are they doing up so early? What was it that drove them from their beds before dawn, and put them on a dark uphill climb, to a tomb?

The thing that drove them, was their love for and devotion to Jesus. Someone had to prepare His body for burial and no one else had volunteered; Peter didn't, James didn't, neither did John. So, it was up to these two faithful followers, two women who had never left the side of Jesus, two women who were with Him until the very end, it was up to them to do it, and they did.

The task they were going to perform was a somber task, a difficult task. They would be the ones, who would wipe the blood from His brow, His legs, and from His sides, they would be the ones, to clean body of Jesus, they would be the ones, to remove the blood that had matted in his beard, they would be the last ones, to touch his face and close His eyes. OR so they thought!

Because when they arrived at the place where Jesus was buried, they found the stone rolled away. They went inside and found the tomb empty, almost empty because, there was a young man in a white robe sitting down.

Mark 16:6-7, But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

These faithful ladies were looking for Jesus who was crucified. Jesus who was: Arrested, bound, beaten, bruised, battered, mocked, insulted, punched, beard ripped out by the handful, whipped by a Roman scourge... full of lead and broken pieces of pottery.

BUT WE MUST UNDERSTAND, from the very moment the Roman soldier pounded the first nail into the flesh of God on that Friday morning, Sunday was coming. And on Sunday morning Jesus with GREAT

POWER burst forth from grave! The tomb is empty! Jesus is Alive! The enemy has been defeated! Death could not hold Him down!

“Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here.”

I am convinced that Jesus may want to say the same thing to some people in this very room... ‘don’t be alarmed, don’t live in fear, it is going to be okay... I have risen! I am alive! And my DRB (death, burial, and resurrection) changes everything!

Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection would be irrefutable proof that he was exactly who he said he was. God in the flesh. The bread of life. The light of the world. The Great I Am. The Savior King. The Christ. The Messiah.

Romans 1:4, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

The Jesus that we; Love, follow, serve, sing to and worship...THE JESUS... that many in this room have surrendered their lives to and have gathered in this place to honor this morning is not just a prophet, a great teacher, or a nice guy. No, Jesus is God! His Resurrection... is a big deal. A Huge deal...The ultimate game changer.

Paul put it like this in **1 Corinthians 15:17-22**.

Jesus’ Death, Burial and Resurrection changed EVERYTHING over 2000 years ago, and it is God’s intention that it continues to change everything even today, even for you and me.

BECAUSE of Jesus’ Death, Burial and Resurrection it changes our...

1. Our Past

- Have you ever wished you could change something in your past? Is there something in your past that you wish you could delete, undo or erase?
- IF – I only knew then, what I know now. IF – I could only turn back the clock, take back those words IF ONLY - I didn’t go there or do that. IF ONLY - I could get another chance.
- The truth is that many times our past disables us, controls us, depresses us, imprisons us, limits us and at times even defines us. But the good news is that the resurrection has the power to change our past.
- Wipe it clean! In God’s eyes, the ones that matter the most.

A. By Freeing us from the Pain of Regret

- IF there was anyone who understood the pain of regret it was Peter. Imagine, what he felt like all day on that Saturday after the crucifixion. Imagine what He felt like when he woke up early Sunday morning. Devastated, ashamed, eaten up by guilt, drowning in regret. Ever been there? Are you there even now?
- Many people are trapped, paralyzed, in prison by past mistakes. “I’ve done too much, gone too far... my sins and mistakes are too deep...

- If that is what you are thinking, I take great pleasure in telling you that you are wrong! Because the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus changes everything!
- How awesome it is to no longer have the past control us, limit us, disable us, define us. Just ask Peter, how it felt when heard these words from the 2 woman who just burst into the room, out of breath from running their mini 5k from the empty tomb.
- **“But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”**
- How many chances/strikes does Jesus give us? As many times as you continue to go up to bat. His forgiveness is unmeasurable.
- Jesus’ DBR resurrection changes everything. IT changes our past. IT removes the stain, IT covers our shame, IT forgives our sin, on the cross Jesus cried out ‘**It Is Finished...**’ (paid in full)
- GOD placed our sins on His son and punished them there. SO THAT, He could pour out His sin-hating wrath on His Son and pour out His soul saving love on us. Jesus was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Roman 4:25, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

- Though guilt is an important stop on the journey, it is never intended to be our final destination. **Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... - Romans 8:1.**

B. By Freeing us from the Prison of Resentment.

- LISTEN, everybody in this room, has been hurt by other people. In Fact, you’ve probably been hurt a lot. Sometimes intentionally, sometimes unintentionally.
- We need to understand that what we do with that hurt will determine whether we live freely or whether we live in prison.
- What have you not gotten over? WHAT IS IT?! That even as I bring up the topic of resentment the fires of bitterness and the flames of hurt are re-kindled?
- Resentment cannot change the past, it can’t correct the problem, it doesn't change the person, it doesn't even hurt that person, it only hurts you. Makes you miserable, most of the time they don’t even know.
- Jesus Christ wants to rescue you from the pain of resentment so that you can get on with your life. Not only does Jesus want to save you, free you from resentment, HE shows you how to do it, HE shows you, that you just need to release them.
- When they nailed his hands and feet to the cross Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing...”** And that is true... A LOT - of times the people who hurt you don’t really know what they are doing to: you, themselves, and their relationship with God.
- Jesus showed us that we need to forgive, not for the person that hurt us sake. For yours, resentment and bitterness only destroy the person that holds it.

2. Changes our Present.

- Is there anything you would like to change about your present? Do you think it's possible to be different? To see the changes you have longed for, for years to become reality. Is change possible? "I never overcome: my fear, my doubts, that sinful habit, my insecurities. I'll never become who God wants me to be..."
- If you are or have ever felt those thoughts, I have great news Jesus' DBR changes everything! And it changes our present.
- How does Jesus change our present? I'm glad you asked!

A. Filling us with NEW POWER.

Ephesians 1:18-21, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

B. Making us a NEW PERSON.

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! **(2 Corinthians 5:17)**
- If we are a Jesus follower, we ARE a new creation, we just need to begin living out that reality.
- We just need to cooperate more with the spirit and new heart that is in us. We don't create the river, we just jump into it and let it carry us to who are meant to be.

C. Giving us a NEW PURPOSE.

- We are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. **(Ephesians 2:10)**
- Jesus changes everything and we are changed for a new purpose. To be lights unto the world, not to be hidden, put placed out to bring light as the darkest sets in.

3. Changes our Future.

- The first Easter was so good because that Saturday had been so bad.
- Saturday the disciples didn't think they had much of a future, instead they were in meltdown mode. They were hiding in any available corner of the city in Jerusalem, for fear of a cross that might have their name of it. That Saturday they had no courage, they had no hope.

- Then Sunday comes, those who go to the tomb are not going there to talk with Him, but to anoint His body with oil and spices. It may have been Sunday, but they were in a Saturday state of mind about their future.
- When it comes to hope and courage for the future, do you feel like you are like the disciples, stuck on Saturday?
- When it comes to the grave and death, if we do not have THE answer you will feel stuck in a Saturday state of mind for your entire life. Sure, we have great moments but when death comes up, you will quickly fall back into a Saturday state of mind.
- Because of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, every human being has been given the promise that 'in Christ', death is not the end. Instead, it is simply an exit ramp from this life to the next life, to the best life! It is graduation day.
- Jesus told her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. 26 Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" - John 11:25,26**
- **Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-22.**
- Because Jesus changed everything, followers, believers can read **1 Corinthians 15:55-58** shout and rejoice!
- Our future is secure, guaranteed, coming soon, and it is going to blow our minds in the most wonderful and glorious ways. Yes, Jesus has moved the entire world to Sunday!!!
- **I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. – Romans 8:18**
- Jesus changes everything! His death, burial, and resurrection, through His suffering, our best days are ahead of us!
- Why did I have forks handed out today? When you are eating Easter dinner, your favorite whatever it is, have that fork around as a reminder. Share with someone or if alone with God, how he changed something in your life.
- Because of the Great I AM we need to have our forks ready... the best is yet to come!!!!!!

Conclusion

If you haven't trusted by faith in the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you do it today?

If you already done this, remind yourself and Satan that your past, present and future are changed because of Jesus. When you feel it sneaking in, quietly shackling you and shutting the prison door. Shout out, "It is Finished!" Jesus has set you free!