



FAITH



“He is not here. He has risen just as He said . . .”

THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR

Resurrection Sunday is my favorite holiday of the year. I remember as an eleven-year-old, I came down with chickenpox three days before Resurrection Sunday; however, I hid that from my parents so I could attend the sunrise service. I felt excitement in my fevered mind as I watched the sunrise and joined the people in singing Christ is Risen from the Dead. What foremost captivates me about this holiday is the celebration of Christ’s victory over death. I love to remember the triumph of Sunday following the darkness of Friday. However, as I have matured in Christ, I have become increasingly captivated with how the wondrous resurrection of yesterday affects my life today.

Unlike human victories, which are short lived, Christ’s victory is not momentary but momentous. Christ’s triumphant defeat over death will continue to echo throughout all eternity. The resurrection of Jesus transferred me from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light, for I have not only witnessed the power of the death and resurrection of Jesus

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Christ, I have participated in it. Romans 6:4 explains that we are buried with Christ and “raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.”

As a result, sin is “rendered powerless,” and I am “no longer enslaved to sin” (Rom. 6:6). This is made possible through the glorious mystery of the believer’s union with Christ. We are “alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11), which means His death is my death and His victory is my victory. His yesterday changed my today. I love the way this glorious news is captured in Rend Collective’s song “Resurrection Day,” located on the right.

Every believer becomes a new creation at the moment of salvation. Every believer dies that day and is raised up to new life. And still, all believers struggle to understand how to walk this new life in the Spirit. Paul gives the instructions: “So, you too, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11). The word for “consider” here is λογίζομαι (logizomai); it means to take account. This is what an accountant does when he balances the books. Paul literally challenges us to do the math of salvation. He wants us to recognize the truth of our death to sin just like an accountant recognizes the truth of a sum he just tallied. For Paul this is simple logic. We died with Christ. We are dead to sin. We rose with Christ. We are alive to God. Yet, the question remains: “How does this reality change me today?”

Throughout my life, at times I have struggled to consider myself dead to sin, when sin seems so attractive. I have learned, in those moments, to stop and remind myself that truth is not determined by my feelings (*I feel like I want to sin*) but by God’s word (*I am dead to sin*).

Nevertheless, knowledge does not win the victory. I must use the Sword of Truth to slay any desire that would tempt me to sin. I will often meditate on the reality that desire to sin is a lie in my mind. I remind myself that I am dead to those desires. I spend time in prayer until I begin to experience victory over my thoughts. This is what is meant to take our thoughts captive (2 Cor.10:5). This is possible because I have been raised to new life in Christ Jesus. I am a new creation and old things have passed away, and all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17). I love the way the reality is captured in the Puritan prayer titled “Regeneration,” located on the right.

Christ’s glorious resurrection is a victory that changes my present reality. I was lost and unable to see my way, when His life broke through and set me free. I am now alive in Christ and aware of the eternal spiritual implications of my life. The life I now live in the Spirit is only possible because of His resurrection from the dead.

So, this Resurrection Sunday, let us be challenged to celebrate what Christ accomplished yesterday so we might live changed lives today!

HE IS RISEN! *Pastor Caleb*

RESURRECTION DAY

Because You're
risen I can rise
Because You're
living I'm alive

....

This is my
resurrection day
Nothing's gonna
hold me in the grave
This is my
resurrection day
Nothing's gonna hold
me down
Say goodbye to
my yesterdays
Ever since I met You
I am changed
This is my
resurrection day
Nothing's gonna hold
me down



REGENERATION

I was dead in
iniquities, having
no eyes to see thee,
no ears to hear
thee, no taste to
relish thy joys,
no intelligence
to know thee;
But thy Spirit has
quickenened me,
has brought me
into a new world
as a new creature,
has given me
spiritual perception,
has opened to me
thy Word as light,
guide, solace, joy.

(Valley of Vision, p.47)

JIM AND MARY THURBER

Saturation Global, Oceanside, Calif.

At the age of 10, Jim accepted the Lord as his savior. "I immediately knew I wanted to serve the Lord," he said. Throughout his teenage years, he witnessed broadly and received so much resistance he was forced to choose for or against God. "I chose for Him."

Jim and Mary have been married 52 years. "Marriage taught us the greatest lesson in life—servanthood," Jim said. "A successful marriage requires a man and woman devoted to each other for life as servants fulfilling their respective biblical roles: humble lover; submissive supporter."

For 35 years, Jim has been in global ministry, and he

currently leads the Global Saturation team. He is a gifted teacher and uses his creativity to produce interactive discipleship tools. These equip Jesus' followers to replicate Jesus' glorification of God in others.

The latest tool developed is WalkTalk coupled with Disciple-Making Ministry. They are free but do require training to use properly. "The keys to leading the SG team are training, not teaching; replicating, not duplicating; replacing, not dominating."

Even in the midst of Covid, Jim continued to travel internationally as an itinerate missionary. Because he travels so much, he appreciates "coming home to Mary and her caring expertise."



"Please pray for our ministry in the Dominican Republic; it is expanding and many trainings are being planned all over the island by different trainers."

—Jim Ryan

Jim has a doctorate in international missions from Mid-America Theological Seminary. For more information about the ministry visit: globalsaturation.com.



"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of the risen Christ."

—Mother Teresa



SING HIS PRAISES

Les Counts, Worship Director

When we consider the worship of a Holy God, we are confronted with a massive topic and limited understanding. We bow our knee, raise our voices, serve a child, minister to someone who is hurting, which are all examples of worship. Worship involves the totality of who we are before our Creator and Redeemer—Jesus! It is clear; God alone is worthy of our worship.

Created to worship, there are many facets to our worship. God invites us to “approach the throne of grace with boldness . . .” (Heb. 4:16), and Psalm 150 tells us to “Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!” We see the Lord inviting us to worship Him. And, all are welcome; there are no qualifiers.

Other passages speak to the details of music ministry. Every type of

instrument is suitable when glorifying God and we “sing a new song . . . play skillfully . . . with a joyful shout” (Psalm 33:3).

God cares about details, creativity, skill and discipline. He created us to be productive, proficient, and to serve others with our gifts.

THRONE OF GRACE

We bring our gifts, and we praise the Lord. He delights in our worship, and He even sings over us! (Zeph.3:17). He is worthy of our best efforts, and we do this with grateful hearts.

Romans 12:1 guides us in our worship: “Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.”



DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE

The night before the crucifixion, Jesus and the disciples ate their last Passover meal together. Jesus took the bread and cup and told His disciples to eat and drink in remembrance of Him. This was a new covenant—a covenant solely dependent on His death and resurrection.

Throughout the ages, that Passover Seder has been celebrated on the Thursday before resurrection Sunday; it is often called Maundy Thursday. Maundy is Latin for command, for it was at this meal—after washing the disciples’ feet, after announcing His betrayal, and after Judas left to collect his 30 pieces of silver—that Jesus gave a new commandment. “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, so love one another” (John 13:34).

Jesus taught that forgiveness and a relationship with God are available to anyone who accepts His invitation. And, he still invites us to sup at His table. We have that opportunity on Thursday, April 1. The Faith family will celebrate the new covenant by taking communion together as His disciples. Christ’s invitation is always available, and all who accept it, can call Him Lord. If you haven’t already, today is the day to respond to His invitation.

“Hallelujah!

*Praise God in his sanctuary.
Praise him in his mighty expanse.*

*Praise him for his powerful acts;
praise him for his abundant greatness.*

*Praise him with the trumpet blast;
praise him with the harp and lyre.*

*Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.*

*Praise him with resounding cymbals;
Praise him with the clashing cymbals.*

*Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.
Hallelujah!”*

Psalm 150



*“For as oft as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death, until he comes again”
(1 Cor. 11:26).*

WHAT? DISCIPLE? ME?

Easter is a natural time to talk to people about Jesus. Amidst bunnies, egg hunts, family gatherings, and ham with scalloped potatoes, we have the privilege to make disciples. After all, isn't it about hanging out with people? Ohhh, but that's different than talking about Jesus. Right?

Jesus gave the Great Commission after His resurrection.

“Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the of Holy spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19–20).

The four verbs of this passage are: go, make, baptize, teach.

In the Greek it works out in our lives this way:

Make disciples...

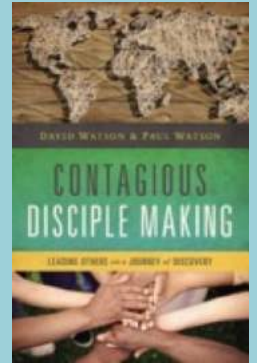
...as you are *going* about your daily life at home, at work, at the grocery store, or while on the phone, make disciples—lifelong followers of Jesus.

...as you are *baptizing* believers, make disciples—steadfast followers of Jesus every moment, every day.

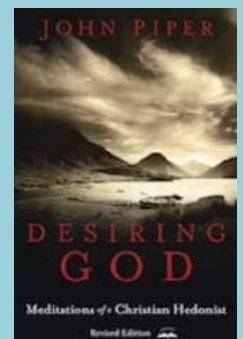
...as you are *teaching* your children, your classes, even when you don't feel confident, make disciples—ones who grow in the knowledge of Christ and are obedient to the word.

Let us think about how to make disciples during this beautiful time of the year as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Let's make disciples while we live lives that honor God.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS?



It's hard to deny that today's world can seem apathetic toward Christians. David Watson and Paul Watson have mapped out a simple method to change indifference to desire, which will grow the Church.



John Piper's slogan is this simple truth: “God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him.” *Desiring God* may turn your Christian world upside down, and that's a good thing for your deepest joy.



**HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY!
MAY 9**



Honor your father and mother is the first commandment with the promise of a long life (Ex. 20:12). If I have a great mom, it's easy to find ways to show honor. But how does it look if she's passed? Or, was not in my life? I can honor her with my time. I can honor her by showing others love. I can honor her with forgiveness. God wants us to honor our mother. It's important for both mother and child. In whatever way we celebrate this day, we glorify God when we honor Mom.

Have a blessed day!

COMING TO FAITH

Leah Schroeder



My parents are first generation Christians. They faithfully raised their six kids sharing God's word and praying with them.

I can't recall the Bible story, but one night, I realized for the first time that my sins (fighting with siblings, disobeying my parents, and other things) separated me from God. I was five and so fearful, I had a nightmare featuring Satan in the lake of fire. My dad recognized the opportunity to share the hope available to me if I confessed my sins to Jesus. He said God would forgive me, and I could begin a relationship with Him. That night I confessed to Jesus. My fear became a small, confident faith.

My family moved around until I was ten. Finally, we planted roots in Lancaster, Calif. and attended West Valley Church, the original church started by Pastor Dean Matteson. I joined AWANA, a

kids' group and memorized verses. Once I reached junior high, I was excited to learn how to defend my faith and share it and the Lord with others. My faith was my own. God had brought me to Him in His time.

There were not many people in our church even after WVC merged with and became Faith Community. I found myself in the nursery, at workdays, on missions' trips, and as a summer intern alongside Caleb Schroeder.

By the end of my sophomore year in college, Caleb and I knew that ministry worked better with us together than apart. What can I say? He proposed, I said yes, and a year later we each said "I do." Now we have six children and continually look for opportunities to serve our Lord.

God took a fearful five-year-old, a geeky junior higher, and a hopeful college student and taught her how to give all she had and use it for His glory. I pray I continue to grow as His daughter, and I pray for all to come to faith in His time.

WHAT THE KIDS SAY

Q: Why do you love your mommy?

*A: I love my mommy because she loves me.
-Emily, age 4, SD*

Q: What makes you laugh about mommy?

*A: When she forgets things because she has mommy brain.
-Miriam, age 5, NY*

Q: What's funny about your mommy?

*A: I don't know.
(Pause.) She's not funny.
-Charlotte, age 6, Quartz Hill*

Q. What do you love most about your mom?

*A: She is so sweet.
-Blake, age 11, Palmdale*

KID THINGS

Clint McClure
Children's Ministries

1. Place scripture verses and candy in plastic eggs. Hide. Find. Eat. Read.
2. Re-enact Palm Sunday with green paper and stuffed animals.
3. Sing Matt. 28:6 to any tune and memorize it that way.
4. Make the Easter story from Play-Doh.
5. Make crosses out of sticks and string and place them in a planter.
6. Pray and thank Jesus for what He has done for us.

LESSONS FROM THE TOMB*

Bev Gonda, Women's Ministry

They were grieving. Afraid. They had just witnessed the crucifixion of their Lord. I imagine they felt disappointment and shock as they looked around and saw no other disciples. Yet, these women showed great faith and courage. Their authentic relationships and their quick obedience teach us wonderful lessons from the tomb.

Seek (Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1–6; Matt. 28:5)

In the midst of grieving, they rose at dawn on the first day of the week, prepared themselves, and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away but did not find Jesus' body. An angel appeared and told them to not be afraid. The Scriptures remember these faithful women. What a powerful testimony to have this declared about us—sisters in Christ known to seek Jesus.

Strengthen (Mark 16:2–3)

On their way to the tomb, they asked each other who would roll away the stone. I admire that not knowing the answer still did not deter them. Think about it. They continued on with their hands ready to serve, their hearts prepared to honor, and their eyes expecting to see their Savior. Their question screams impossibility, but they trusted the faithfulness of the God of the impossible. What a wonderful example for us! We strengthen one another's walk even without all the answers.

Serve (Luke 24:1)

Their purpose was to anoint Jesus' body with spices to bless Him. They were intentional women on a mission. This act of humble service was done privately, behind the scenes, with no spotlight. Yet, the Lord honors these acts of service in the Gospels. What an example to us today! We can always find ways to serve one another.

Share (Matt. 28:6–8; Luke 24:12; John 20:3–9)

The angel said to go and tell the disciples that Jesus had risen. They hurried away in fear and joy to tell the others. I'm guessing they hoped their feet could run as fast as their hearts were beating with the exciting news. Most of the others were skeptical because the women's words seemed nonsensical. A few ran to see for themselves. Our testimony is a powerful tool. When we share it, the Holy Spirit uses it to move someone's heart closer to Jesus.

These vulnerable women were authentic. They did life and ministry together. I picture them as they cried with one another, comforted each other, expressed their fears and joy, and spoke of Jesus' words and how He met their needs. We, too, can strengthen one another's faith and in that, bless our Lord.

* A retelling of the story from the four Gospels.



Women at the Tomb
by William Bouguereau



“And let us watch out for one another to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as we see the day approaching” (Heb. 10:24).



Who: “[If] my people who bear my name will humble themselves, pray and seek my face . . .” (2 Chron.7:14).

What: “Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored and holy” (Matt. 6:9).

Where: “But when you pray go into your private room . . .” (Matt. 6:6).

When: “Pray constantly . . .” (1 Thess. 5:17).

Why: “The Lord is near to all who call out to him, all who call out to him with integrity” (Psalm 145:18).

*May 1
National Day of Prayer*



AMEN!

* Pastor Caleb and the Easter messages of resurrection and redemption to reach the hearts of the people.

* Nicole Kornoff and the family as she continues chemo.

* The Thurbers ministry in the Dominican Republic.

* The Evangelism Team as they go out Wednesday mornings.

* Families who have lost loved ones to Covid and in other ways.

* Vacation Bible School teachers to share the gospel and for the children to hear.

* New visitors at Faith to hear the answers for their life, and experience the joy of the Lord.

* Mary and Bill Rocco as they recover from a serious car accident.

* Natalie Lewis and her family as she undergoes heart surgery.

* Tobie Keiser recently diagnosed with cancer.

* Praise for Pastor Matteson’s successful surgery.

For immediate prayer needs contact Laura Cox:
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All scripture verses are from the Christian Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated.



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UPCOMING*

March 28: 8 a.m.,
9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Palm Sunday

April 1: 7–8 p.m.
Communion Service

April 2: 5 p.m & 6:30 p.m.
Good Friday

April 4: 8 a.m.,
9:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Resurrection Sunday

April 6: Noon–2 p.m.
PrimeTimers potluck

April 10, May 8,
June 12: 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
Church Workdays

April 16, May 21
Grace Resources
(√ Faithtoyou.com/info)

April 23: 6 p.m.
Women’s Worship Night

April 30
Couples Amazing Race
(√ Faithtoyou.com/info)

May 6: 10 a.m.
Widows’ Fellowship
(Hosted at Kornoff’s)

May 9
Mother’s Day

June 7–11: choose
either 9 a.m.–12 p.m. or
3:30–6:30 p.m.
Vacation Bible School

Sundays: 2 p.m. Desert
Sands Park (not Palm or
Easter Sunday)

Wednesdays:
3–5 p.m.
Good News Club

* Unless otherwise stated,
held at Faith Community.