



## Sermon, Sunday April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunday “Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ”

**SCRIPTURE: Romans 6:3-9** <sup>6</sup>Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. <sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

### **Introduction: Jesus Christ is risen.**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ! Today is Easter. Let us greet each other with "**Happy Easter!**".

Jesus Christ is risen! He is truly risen! By the way, how does this sound to you?

Perhaps, to those who do not believe in Jesus, it will sound empty, absurd, or unbelievable. But for Christians, this word is the Gospel, true wisdom, and joy.

So, the Christians of the Early Church encouraged and greeted each other with; "**Jesus is resurrected. He is truly resurrected!**". The Christians of the Early Church were able to stand up to persecution and endure tribulation because they had faith in the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is the most important content and core of the Gospel.

**So the Apostle Paul says, “that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-6).**

As mentioned in this verse, the Apostle Paul says that the gospel is "**that Jesus died and rose again.**" And he says why this is the gospel in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. Then why is the resurrection of Jesus the gospel?

### **Body: Why the news of the resurrection is the true gospel**

**First, the reason why the news of the resurrection is the gospel is because the resurrection is the only hope given to those who are dead, those who are dying, and those who are afraid of death.** In fact, the world tells us to accept death as natural. But the Bible declares that Jesus overcame death. So death is not the end for Christians. Death is no longer an object of fear for those who sincerely believe in the resurrection of Jesus.



**1 Corinthians 15:55-58 says, “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? (v.55) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. (v.56) But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (v.57) Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (v.58)”.**

Dear brothers and sisters! The Lord overcame death and rose again. Our Lord truly overcame death and rose again. If you agree with what I am saying, please reply with ‘Amen!’

**Second, the reason why the news of the resurrection is the gospel is that the resurrection of Jesus is a true hope for all those who have been marginalized from the world and have suffered injustice.** Jesus' death on the cross, as reported in the Gospels, was the result of the Jewish religious people's selfishness, greed, abuse of power, and people's ignorance. But Jesus did not yield to the order and power of the world.

In fact, human selfishness and greed are as powerful today as they were 2,000 years ago when Jesus lived. Even now, many people are afflicted and killed for religious, economic, political, and cultural reasons. Looking at all these terrible things happening around us, it seems that there is no hope in the world we live in.

However, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is an event that reveals that the order of the evil world and the forces of evil have not succeeded. In other words, resurrection is an event that declares that wrong and unjust things will be revealed and judged at the end of time. Resurrection is also an event that reveals God's will to bring back to life the marginalized who have suffered injustice in the world.

The reason why the news of the resurrection is the true gospel is because it is the Lord's confirmation of individual salvation and the completion of social justice. Christians believe this. By the way, we must not be satisfied with knowing and agreeing that the news of the resurrection is the gospel. Today's text from Romans tells us how we can participate in the Lord's resurrection in our lives. So how can we make the gospel of resurrection ours?

There are very important rites associated with Easter in church tradition. It's a baptism. So, the early church Christians were baptized to celebrate Easter. Then, what is the relationship between resurrection faith and baptism?

**Today's text, Romans 6:4-5, says, "Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."**

In this verse, the Apostle Paul describes baptism as being buried with Christ and being resurrected in union with Christ. Those who receive baptism experience death to sin through baptism and resurrection with Christ through baptism. In other words, through baptism we have a foretaste of death and are also reborn as new beings.

So, Easter is not simply a day to recall or remember the resurrection of Jesus. The Christians of the Early Church experienced their death and resurrection to a new life through baptism every Easter. Therefore, if we truly rejoice and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we must kill the old self on the cross with Christ and be born a new being with Jesus. In other words, we must be born again as a person who resembles the character and personality of Jesus Christ and lives for God. This is how we participate in the resurrection of Christ.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ! Today, Romans chapter 6 tells us that resurrection faith is not only something given in the distant future, after our death, but also living as a new being that resembles the character and personality of Jesus through killing our old selves and being born again.

**So, in Galatians 2:20, Paul says; "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ**



**lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”**

**Conclusion: Offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness!**

Now let's summarize today's message. How can we live resurrection faith in our lives? That is, we do not just remember and think about the resurrection of Jesus, but we become born as new beings who resemble the character and personality of the Lord.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

**Romans 6:13 says, "No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness."**

Today is Easter, rejoicing in the victory of Jesus' resurrection. I hope we can all live our lives with the faith of resurrection. Also, may we be blessed to offer our body to God as instruments of righteousness.

