

Why It Is Good News to Us Today?

Promise: Jesus' Resurrection Means there is forgiveness of sins

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 16; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10

(Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday, 4/9/23)

He is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” — v. 42-43

Lead In – None of us would have a hard time understanding why the discovery of the empty tomb and then the beginning of Jesus' appearances over the course of 40 days would have been good news for Jesus' family, friends, and His band of followers. And by the way, for the most part the appearances of the resurrected Jesus were mostly to His followers, to a relatively few witnesses and limited to forty days. Then He ascended with the promise to return one day, presumably soon. So the question to consider this morning, why is this good news to us today, some 2,000 years later?

I. Peter Explains Significance to Gentiles

A. A brief contour of this Jewish man's life...

B. Unlike Socrates, Cicero, Confucius...

C. Importance of preaching coming of the Judge...

II. The Timeless Good News Is the Forgiveness

A. Easy to say that you have forgiveness of sins ...

B. The scholars are not wrong on who can forgive sins...

C. An even greater demonstration of power to forgive...

III. What Results When Sin Is Overcome

A. Death is then overcome...

B. The tempter, liar, and evil one is then overcome...

C. Justice and righteousness will then prevail...

Parting Shot – Friends, the empty tomb and resurrection appearances 2,000 year ago are good news to us if it really happened! If Jesus was not raised from the dead by the Father, you needn't bother with Christianity, especially since it is a most difficult path. But if it did happen, He is alive, He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and He does forgive the sins of repentant sinners who believe in Him. That forgiveness and what it implies is the greatest gift imaginable and provides the single greatest hope. It is still good news to us today and why we are celebrating it.

Mt 3:16-17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Jn 1:29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jn 1:32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him."

I Am Statements: way, truth, life, light, true vine, resurrection, bread of life, Good Shepherd, door to the sheepfold,

Jn 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

Acts 10:34-43 ESV

Gentiles Hear the Good News

³⁴ So Peter opened his mouth and said: "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all), ³⁷ you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

"He will come again to judge the living and the dead."

Mt 9:2 And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven."

Mk 2:6-7 "Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Mt 9:6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, pick up your bed and go home."

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Co 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1Co 15:17-19 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.