

Matt. 28:1-10: Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene & the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² & behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven & came & rolled back the stone & sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, & his clothing white as snow. ⁴ & for fear of him the guards trembled & became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly & tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, & behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear & great joy, & ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ & behold, Jesus met them & said, "Greetings!" & they came up & took hold of his feet & worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go & tell my brothers to go to Galilee, & there they will see me."

Intro: I watched the funeral service for a 12 year old girl named Perpetua this past week. John Piper preached the funeral. Perpetua's family serve as missionaries in Chad, Central Africa. She had caught cerebral malaria & typhoid fever. "After receiving her second dose of medication, she laid down for sleep, but passed into the loving arms of her Savior Jesus Christ in the early morning hours." "Perpetua was named after the Christian martyr who died in AD 203 – a young, well-educated noblewoman who was executed by a gladiator in Carthage (modern day Tunis), northern Africa. Her story is one of the oldest & most detailed accounts of female Christian martyrdom in early church history. Like her namesake, Perpetua died for the sake of her Lord Jesus Christ."

All we believe & hope for as Christians depends on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

- 1 Cor. 15:17-19, 26, 55-57: if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile & you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied . . . ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death . . . "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, & the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Last Sunday, we saw that the enemies of Jesus remembered His words; they tried to do everything they could to stop Him; they bribed & lied about Him; But they could not stop Him! What Jesus says happens, & nobody can stop Him!

Jesus rose from the dead so that you might glorify Him & enjoy Him forever!

1. Jesus' Resurrection Was On The First Day Of The Week

Matthew 28:1: Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week

Unique Phrase: Piper: In all four gospels a very unusual way of expressing the first day of the week is used to describe the day of Jesus' resurrection. It's usually translated "On the first day of the week." Literally it would read, "the number one of the Sabbath." That is, Jewett writes: "the day which is number one in the sequence of days determined by the Sabbath" (Jewett, The Lord's Day, p. 75). Words for "first" occur over 150 times in the New Testament. And only in reference to the day of the resurrection do we get this unusual usage.

- 1) Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, not on the Sabbath: Mark 10:33-34; Mark 16:9
- 2) All seven appearances of Jesus before He ascended back to His Father that record a specific day of occurrence happened on two Sundays, not on a Sabbath day.
- 3) Christians are recorded in the Bible assembling three times on Sunday after the resurrection & before the ascension, never on the Sabbath.
- 4) The only time Christians are recorded to have assembled together after Christ's ascension was on a Sunday in Acts 20:7. Never does the Bible record that the disciples assembled on the Sabbath.
- 5) The only day ever mentioned when Christians broke bread was on Sunday: Acts 20:7.
- 6) Christians are commanded to give financially to the church on the first day of the week: 1 Cor. 16:1-2.
- 7) Jesus was declared to be the Son of God in power on Sunday: Romans 1:4.
- 8) Psalm 2:7 "Today I have begotten You" was fulfilled on Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead: Acts 13:32-39.

9) The Apostle John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day: Rev. 1:10: "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day". The only other occurrence of this form of adjective "Lord's" in the New Testament is of the Lord's Supper: 1 Cor.

11:20: "When you come together, it is not the Lord's supper that you eat".

10) Throughout history for over 2,000 years, Christians have met together on the first day of the week ever since Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week!

Ignatius (Pastor in Antioch, 107 AD): Let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day as a festival, the resurrection-day, the queen & chief of all the days of the week.

2. Jesus' Resurrection Was Affirmed By The Women Witnesses

Matthew 28:1: Mary Magdalene & the other Mary went to see the tomb.

They are Jesus' disciples: watched His death from a distance. **One:** Sin came through a woman in a garden; the first good news of the total conquering of sin & death came to women in another garden! **Be there!**

3. Jesus' Resurrection Was Announced By An Angel Of The Lord

Matthew 28:2-7: And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

a. The angel's action: An angel of the Lord came in power (great earthquake), in the beauty of holiness (lightning, white, paralyzing men!), & rolled the stone away; **Matthew Henry:** When He died, the earth that received Him, shook for fear; now that He arose, the earth that gave Him up, leaped for joy in His exaltation . . . The angel's sitting upon the stone, after he had rolled it away, is very observable & shows a secure triumph over all the [obstacles] of Christ's resurrection. There he sat, defying all the powers of hell to roll the stone to the grave again.

Many authors: The angel rolled the stone back, not to let Christ out, but to let others see inside!

b. The angel's appearance: Like lightening; clothes white as snow – glorious, holy, beautiful, powerful, dangerous & pure all at the same time! The angel's appearance points us to God's action, joy, & triumph!

The guards tremble with fear & became like dead men! **Ps. 2:4:** He who sits in the heavens laughs

c. The angel's message: 1) Do not be afraid: V. 6: Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was **crucified** (The angel comforts them!)

- Crucifixion: International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: Among the Romans, crucifixion was preceded by scourging, undoubtedly to hasten impending death. The victim then bore his own cross, or at least the upright beam, to the place of execution . . . The suffering of death by crucifixion was intense, especially in hot climates . . . The swell[ing] about the rough nails & the torn lacerated tendons & nerves caused excruciating agony. The arteries of the head & stomach were [excessively filled] with blood & a [terrifying], throbbing headache occurred. The mind was confused & filled with anxiety & dread. The victim of crucifixion literally died a thousand deaths . . . The sufferings were so frightful [Josephus wrote] that "even among the raging passions of war, pity was sometimes excited." . . . Death was sometimes hastened by breaking the legs of the victims & by a hard blow delivered under the armpit before crucifixion.

- The physical pain was nothing compared to the spiritual suffering Christ endured: Isa. 53:4, 10: we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, & afflicted . . . ¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; **GOSPEL!**

2) He is not here, for He has risen as He said. Come, see the place where He lay: Jesus was raised up!

(One Pastor) Biblical Evidence: (1) The Bible Tells Me So! **Trinitarian Resurrection: (Father: Gal. 1:1:** God the Father, who raised him from the dead; **Son: John 2:19:** Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up; **John 10:17-18:** I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. **Holy Spirit: Rom 8:11:** the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead)

(2) Jesus' death & resurrection was prophesied in advance (Isaiah 53, Psalm 16, 22).

(3) Jesus foretold His resurrection (Lord, Liar, Lunatic) **Matt. 16:21:** From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem & suffer many things from the elders & chief priests & scribes, & be killed, & on the third day be raised.

(4) Jesus appeared physically alive three days after his death (**1 Cor. 15:6:** he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time)

(5) Jesus' resurrection convinced his family & those closest to Him to worship Him as God

(6) Jesus' resurrection was confirmed by His most bitter enemies, like the Apostle Paul.

Circumstantial Evidence: (1) The transformation of the disciples from cowards to men who died for Jesus!

(2) The day of worship changed from Saturday to Sunday in honor of Jesus' resurrection

(3) Women discovered the empty tomb according to the Scriptures

(4) Early church preaching continually emphasized Jesus' resurrection as a central truth of the Christian faith.

(5) The tomb of was not enshrined like so many religious leaders in that day: he was not there but was raised.

3) Go & tell: V. 7: Then go quickly & tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, & behold, he is going before you to Galilee (Evangelism: we not only commune with Christ, but we act for Christ!)

Matt. 4:15: Galilee of the Gentiles; **Matt. 28:19:** Go therefore & make disciples of all nations

4) You will see Him: V. 7: there you will see him. See, I have told you.

- **John 12:21:** Sir, we wish to see Jesus.

Hymn: In Jesus Christ we have it all! He's all beauty; He's all glory; He's the God-Man; He's our all! He alone is satisfaction; He's the pleasure of our life! He's our Treasure; He's our Joy! He's our Delight! Jesus is our Preoccupation, Infatuation, & holy Fascination, for He causes intoxication more than anything else in all of creation!

Jesus rose from the dead so that you might glorify Him & enjoy Him forever!

4. Jesus' Resurrection Inspires Fear, Great Joy, And Worship

Matt. 28:8-9: So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear & great joy, & ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ & behold, Jesus met them & said, "Greetings!" & they came up & took hold of his feet & worshiped him.

a. These women obey: "they departed quickly from the tomb" True disciples of Jesus obey!

b. These women experience fear & great joy: Fear & joy (missile shoot on Navy ship); joy in Jesus!

c. These women run to tell the disciples: It's such good news, you have to tell! Engaged; pregnant; acceptance

d. These women meet Jesus: You will meet Jesus in the path of obedience! This is what we want most: Jesus!

e. These women worship Jesus: They fall before Jesus, grab His feet (bodily!), & worship Him! (hair/tears)

f. Worship Jesus: 1) Gentile Magi/wise men; 2) These women here; 3) Matt. 28:17: The disciples

- **John 8:58; John 20:28:** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **Jesus is God!**

5. Jesus' Resurrection Means We Will See Jesus Someday

Matthew 28:10: Then Jesus said to them, "**Do not be afraid**"; go & tell **my brothers** to go to Galilee, & there they will see me."

Matt. 26:31-35: Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, & the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'"³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."³³ Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away."³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" & all the disciples said the same. **(Mercy-Heart!)**

My Brothers! Would you be the brothers and sisters of Jesus? Believe in Him (John 3:16) & follow Him!

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6. Jesus' Resurrection Is The Heart Of The Gospel

1 Cor. 15:3: I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures

- **Gen. 2:17:** of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

- **Gen. 3:15:** I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your offspring & her offspring; he shall bruise your head, & you shall bruise his heel.

- **1 John 3:8:** The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

If Jesus stayed dead, the devil would have won! If He stayed dead, His death on the cross would have been useless & meaningless! If He stayed dead no one could be saved or forgiven! **But TRCE!**

- **Heb. 2:14-15:** Since therefore the children share in flesh & blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, & deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

- **Rom. 4:24-25:** Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses & raised for our justification.

John Piper: I take that to mean that when Jesus died for our transgressions, a full and sufficient payment was made for our forgiveness and justification. Therefore, it would have been unjust to leave Christ in the grave, since he had so fully paid for our sin. So God raised him from the dead to vindicate the perfection of Christ's atonement & obedience. The resurrection of Jesus was the declaration that what he accomplished in his death was flawlessly successful, namely, the purchase of our justification . . . When Christ died & shed his blood for our transgressions he atoned for the sins that killed him. Since those sins are now covered & paid for, there is no reason for Christ to remain dead. His death was solely to pay for our sins. When they were perfectly paid for, there remained no warrant for his death anymore. It would be unjust to keep him in the grave. He could not stay in the grave, "it was impossible for Him to be held in its power" (Acts 2:24).

Oh what pain & sadness was turned into unspeakable joy! Spurgeon: These good women found that they had lost the Presence of Him who had been their greatest delight. "He is not here," must have sounded like a funeral knell (bell ringing) to them. They expected to find Him but He was gone. But then the grief must have been taken out of their hearts when it was added, "He is risen." I gather from this that if God takes away from me any one good thing, He will be sure to justify Himself in having done so & that very frequently He will magnify His Grace by giving me something infinitely better. Did Mary think it would be a good thing to find the dead body of her Lord? Perhaps it would have given her a kind of melancholy satisfaction – or so she thought according to her poor judgment. The Lord took that good thing away. But then Christ was risen & now to hear of Him, then presently to see Him – was not that an infinitely better thing? Have you lost anything of late around which your heart had inter-

twisted all its tendrils? You shall find that there is good cause for the loss! The Lord never takes away a silver blessing without intending to confer on us a golden gain! Depend upon it – for wood He will give iron & for iron He will give brass – & for brass He will give silver & for silver He will give gold! **TRCE!**

Jesus Rose Up From The Bitter Grave; And Lives New Life To Sinners Gave; For Everyone He Came To Save; So We Could Be His Holy Slave; Wholly Behave And Him Alone Forever Crave!

Unless Christ comes we all will die
It could be soon – for all draws nigh
And then the living may ask why
When all we see around us cry
Our Jesus wept – His eyes weren't dry
And so let's to His mercy fly
Who's bruised and whipped and cursed He'd die
But conquer death and sin deny
All death – the enemy – defy
He is the Resurrection high
He'll be your every joy supply
But now it is OK to cry
He'll comfort you in the goodbye
All grace and mercy He'll apply
Believe His Word – on Him rely!

On the first day of that joy-pierced week
When everything around looked bleak
From groans and weeping they were weak
To find His corpse they came to seek
And hide with spice death's smelly reek
But oh what they would find unique
The risen Christ in full mystique
His resurrection is the peak
Of all His saving work complete
Of this salvation we must speak
And tell all sinners poor and weak
To turn from sin and future bleak
Where hell-fire burns with no retreat
He quenched these flames with bloodied shriek
And conquered death to end its streak
To save all nations Jew and Greek
From Syria to Mozambique
So come to Him and Treasure seek
Of all true pleasure He's the peak!

The Resurrection changes everything
The bitter punch of death does swing
And to our knees in grief will bring
Sin is crushing death's deep sting
But He's the mighty risen King
Who killed all death and took its sting
And He'll forever make you sing
His beauty surpasses everything

His praises will forever ring
Up from the tomb our King did spring
By faith to Him forever cling!

Of this great Christ we must go and tell
So those around won't go to hell
Instead with Christ in glory dwell
Where joys increase, and all is well
To fears of speaking let's dispel
And to our silence say farewell
From the mountains let us yell
"Christ is risen!" does compel
Speak the truth in love propel
And by your actions don't repel
So some must come out of their shell
Our Christ is worthy we must tell
He suffered all the pains of hell
And rose alive to joys swell
Sends missionaries from Cornell
Oh praise His name He does excel
In every beauty we could tell!

Christ The LORD Is Risen Today
"He Is Not Here!" The Angel Say
He Is Alive To Evil Slay
He Died And Rose To Be The Way
With Greatest Joy His Life Survey

We Worship Him And To Him Pray
To All God's Promises He's Yea
He's Taken All Our Sins Away
We Long To See His Face Someday
He's God The Son Whom We Obey!

Jesus rose from the dead so that you might glorify Him & enjoy Him forever!

Good news for Perpetua: Jn. 11:25-26: Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection & the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, & everyone who lives & believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"