

Week 2 - From Death Flows Freedom

GOD'S
NOT
DEAD

Last week we looked at evidence for Jesus' resurrection. This week we consider why that is so important for us today.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:17, Romans 6:1-11, 1 Corinthians 2:2

We tend to focus only on the death of Christ, where he took our sins upon him and died the death we should have died in our place - the great substitute. But there is more. He not only took our place, he also took our sinful nature with him when he died. When he died, so did we. When he rose from the dead, he raised us to a new life. As a result we are free from the penalty and power of sin.

1. Personal Application

- It Challenges Our Stand – We have to make a choice to either continue to pursue our own version of freedom, or we can choose live in the freedom we have been given through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - It Challenges Our Heart – Though we may feel that we are still slaves to our sin at times, we need to challenge those despairing and disillusioned feelings with the truth. It needs to be birthed and rooted in our hearts through faith (the active decision to believe and pursue the truth despite how we feel).
- ❖ Q: What is the difference between pursuing our own version of freedom and living in the freedom that Christ's death and resurrection has brought us?
 - ❖ Q: In what ways do we personally fall into the trap of pursuing "freedom" that is not real freedom at all?
 - ❖ Q: Do you sometimes feel that you will never be free from the power of sin in your life? How are we to deal with this in our own hearts?

2. Corporate Application

- It Shapes Our Attitudes Towards One Another – When we understand that everything we have is from God and that every bit of good comes from God, then we realise that we are free to extend endless grace to others and build authentic relationships that are totally free from pride and prejudice.
 - It Shapes Our Loving Service To One Another – Because we are no longer slaves to our own desires, but are free to focus on others, we get to use our God-given gifts to love and serve one another.
- ❖ Q: Why is it incompatible with our faith to assess and then treat other people with an air of superiority/pride/prejudice?
 - ❖ Q: Has your faith in the resurrection of Christ impacted you at such a deep level that you are free to love people as they are, and are able to build authentic relationships with them? (Or do you still pick and choose who you want to invest in, depending on the return on the investment?) Have you noticed any heart change over time in your attitude towards others? Why should our attitudes change?
 - ❖ Q: If we truly believe that Christ was raised from the dead and that he has freed us from sin's power, do you think is it possible to be in Christian community and not use our gifts to serve others? Explain.
 - ❖ Q: Do you know what your gifts for serving the Christian community are? If so, does everyone in your group know what your gifts are? Are you using your gifts in some capacity to serve the community you are part of?

3. Missional Application

- It Invigorates Our Missional Living – Christ's resurrection is the best news for a struggling and suffering world that is enslaved to sins penalty, power and presence. As I experience freedom in my own life, I should want to share it with everyone around me.
- ❖ Q: Why do you think that we don't tell people about Jesus much? (Do you think it is because we are ashamed of the gospel or do you think it is because if we are honest with ourselves, in our own experience, we lack the true freedom and joy that comes from the truth of the resurrection being rooted in our hearts?)
 - ❖ Q: Can you think of someone you know that just oozes joy and excitement when they talk about Jesus? Have you ever wondered why it comes so naturally to some people?
 - ❖ Q: When considering how "missional" your life is, do you think that there needs to be some changes in your heart/life? What are those changes? How do you think those changes will come about? Is there any way that as a gospel-community we can help one another to grow in this area?