

B. The resurrection guarantees God's just reward despite every injustice we encounter in this life.

C. The resurrection transforms our desires onto lasting things and therefore our pursuits and actions. (1 Peter 4:2)

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- Does it surprise you to read that we are born-again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? How would you explain this?
- How does baptism demonstrate our unity to Christ in the resurrection? How does it help us understand how we are born-again through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead?
- How does the resurrection help us understand the nature of the Kingdom of God and the reign of Christ? (See Romans 1:2-4.)
- In what sense are all our goals targeted before the grave prior to new-birth? How does the resurrection of Jesus move our target beyond this life? Why is this significant?
- How does the resurrection guarantee God's just reward despite every injustice we encounter in this life?
- How does the resurrection transform our desires? How does this change how we live?
- Have you been born-again into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus? Has your life been transformed by this hope in a dying world?

Born-again through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Jerry Cisar — Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016

Text: 1 Peter 1:3-5

Introduction

Daniel Deutschlander: *Could there be a more glorious day than this? ...Oh, no! A thousand times no!...No, this day, the day of Christ's resurrection, is by far the most glorious day in all of time and in all of eternity. CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED! May you love and treasure this day beyond your highest good as a day more glorious than your birthday, your wedding day, the day of the birth of your child, even the day of your death and your own entrance into glory.*

A. We are born again into 3 things:

- i. A living hope
- ii. An inheritance that can neither perish, spoil, nor fade.
- iii. A salvation that is ready to be revealed,

B. We are born again through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

- i. What does it mean to be born-again?

➤ John 3:3-7

- ii. How did God bring about our new birth through the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead?

- iii. Have you been born-again and do you have a living hope?

- iv. What do the resurrection and new-birth have to do with seeing the Kingdom of God?

I. The resurrection helps us see God's Kingdom for what it really is.

A. Two events, each by themselves would have had no effect on the history of the world, but taken together, transform it.

B. We see this in Romans 1:3, 4.

- i. For Paul, the flesh and the Spirit are different realms. We live either in realm of the flesh or the Spirit.
- ii. The Gospel is about the Son of God being subjected to the realm of weakness and death (the realm of flesh), becoming a messiah who suffers in weakness.
- iii. The Gospel is about the Son of God being installed as Messianic King-in-power in the realm of the Holy Spirit, the resurrected, never to die, realm of power in which death and dying have been defeated.

C. After the resurrection that the apostles understood the meaning of Psalm 2:7.

- i. Acts 13:32-34
- ii. In the resurrection, the divine Son of God – still joined with us in our humanity – was raised in all His humanness, into the eternal realm where he had been before.

D. The Kingdom of God is not an earthly kingdom of human political power, but a heavenly kingdom of eternal and transforming power.

II. When we are joined to Jesus in His death, we are raised with Him in His resurrection.

A. Baptism and our union with Christ (1 Peter 3:21-22)

B. Our baptism is a reenactment of our union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.

- i. Romans 6:3-4
- ii. Colossians 2:12

C. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is **the death of death** for both Him and us!

III. The Resurrection and new-birth transform life in a dying world.

Adolph Schlatter: *"It is the act of the Merciful One that he accepts those who are dying, removes the destiny of death from them, and gives them a new beginning, a second birth, out of which a new life will arise."*

A. The Resurrection moves our target to a point beyond this life. (1 Peter 1:4-9)