



# LIFE NEWS

The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

## HE IS RISEN

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As I was thinking about what to write this week, I really wanted to just put the title of this article, "He is Risen," and call it good. The message of Easter is not a complicated one. In fact, growing up in America, there is a good chance you have heard it dozens of times before. The Gospel is simple yet powerful. Therefore, this article won't be long; it is a straightforward and short reminder of the mystery of our faith.

Paul summarizes it in 1 Corinthians 15, "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 Cephas, and then to the Twelve." It really is that simple. Christ lived a perfect and sinless life in order that he would be a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins. We couldn't have done that for ourselves. We couldn't have earned Heaven no matter how good we are. It is not by our works we are saved, it is the gift of God. His sacrificial death was a gift for us. He loved us so much that he came down and took up residence among us. He put on flesh and chose the cross. There is no greater love than what Christ did for us on the cross. He loved you so much that he didn't leave you in your sins. There was no other way for you to be saved. You may have heard this truth thousands of times. Don't gloss over it; it truly is powerful.

Yet... it didn't stop with Jesus dying. It was three days later he rose from the grave and appeared to many. Paul says without this resurrection, our faith would be useless or futile, and we should be pitied among people (1 Corinthians 15: 14-18). Our faith is dependent on what happened on that Easter morning so many years ago. If it hadn't happened, gathering with others on a Sunday morning would be pointless. We might as well have slept in, had a delicious brunch, and meandered around the yard for a while. There are a lot of better things to do on Sunday if Christ hadn't risen from the dead.

Friends, Christ did rise from the dead! Your faith in Jesus isn't in vain! He has called you out of darkness into the light. He has given you new life if you have believed in him and entered into a relationship with him. There is so much more we could say and talk about. As we move through Holy Week, it is your chance to reflect on this simple yet powerful truth. Don't miss it. There are a lot of things that could distract us (meal planning, filling baskets, deep cleaning, fancy new outfits), but the challenge here is to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of your faith. Ask him to reveal this foundational truth anew in your heart. Because friends:

*He really is risen!*