

Continuing in the Word
"The Road to the Resurrection: Out of the Tomb," John 20:11-18

Jesus Christ was raised to new life by the power of God. In His resurrection Jesus is affirmed to be who He claimed to be – the Son of God who came to save us from our sins. We are assured that the penalty for sin had been paid for. And we are assured that Christ is absolutely victorious over Satan, sin, and death. Apart from the resurrection we would be hopelessly lost in our sins (1 Corinthians 15:17). But Christ arose! He took up His life again, and in doing so, assures us of new life.

There is a spiritual reality that is lived out in a person's salvation that parallels what Christ has done for us. Christ died. We are to die. Christ arose to new life. We are to arise to new life. Romans 6:4 says, *"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* By dying to self and sin through faith in Jesus Christ, even as He was raised to new life, so are we, and we are to live right now according to this newness of life.

What does this new life look like? It's a life of not listening to and obeying sin and its lusts (vs.12). In verse 6 Paul explains that our "old man" was crucified with Christ *"that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin"*. To no longer be a slave of sin means that we don't have to do what sin would urge us to do. We are to consider ourselves *"dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (vs.11). So this new life is a life of not to using our bodies to sin but to do what is good and right (vs.13). Are you living that life?

The spiritual significance of Jesus' resurrection is very personal and very pertinent to our everyday life. It confronts us with two questions: Do we believe in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord? And, are we living the new life that we are raised to through belief in Him?

I hope you had a wonderful Easter weekend, and I hope it was filled with much celebrating of Jesus Christ and His resurrection. I also hope that each one of us will be challenged by Jesus' new life to live the new life He bought for us each and every day that He gives us.

May God bless you deeply as you live the new life!

Pastor Jim