
THE CHRISTIAN TIMES

LA PLATA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday, March 31, 2013

THE RESURRECTION PROCLAIMS THE POWER OF GOD

The message of Easter is that soldiers & seals & stones can never stop the plan of God. God marches on & His plan will be accomplished. We believe that because the tomb is empty & because Jesus Christ is alive. I wasn't there. I didn't see what happened. But I believe in the resurrection with all my heart.

I wasn't there when the Germans surrendered in WW 2 either. But I believe we won & I have two good reasons for believing that.

1. First of all, through the years I have heard the testimony of those who were there & I have read their accounts. They fought the battles. They saw the victory achieved & they passed the good news on, & I believe them.

2. But I also believe because I realize that if we had not won that war our world would be greatly different today. We would not be a free country. We would be an oppressed people. Our society would be different. Our world would be vastly different if Germany had won that war.

I wasn't there when Jesus rose from the dead. But I believe it with all my heart, & I have two good reasons for believing that He arose.

1. First of all, I believe in the resurrection because eyewitnesses have told me that it is true. In 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 the Apostle Paul wrote, "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: 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, & that He appeared to Peter & then to the Twelve.

"After that He appeared to more than 500 of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, & last of all He appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born."

I believe it because the Apostle John wrote in 1 John 1:1-2, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life."

In other words, the apostle John is saying, "I want to tell you what we saw, what we felt, what we experienced. I want to tell you about Jesus."

I believe it because reliable people who saw what happened passed it on.

2. But maybe more important than that, I believe it because our world is greatly different because Jesus is alive. In 1 Corinthians 15:14 Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." Do you realize that that there would be no reason for us to meet this morning if Christ were not alive? Do you realize that thousands of Christian institutions & agencies across the land would not exist today if Jesus were not alive? Did you see the cartoon of two Roman soldiers standing by the empty tomb? The stone was rolled away & one soldier was looking very worried because they had failed in their responsibility. But the other one shrugged & said, "Don't worry about it. A hundred years from now, no one will remember." But a hundred years went by & people still remembered. And now, 2,000 years later, God's people still gather & remember. And if the Lord waits another 2,000 years, God's people will still be meeting to remember, because Jesus is alive & you don't easily forget something like that.

And neither do we forget that sin & death have been conquered & victory has been won. Our world is different because Jesus is alive!

Announcements

EVENING SERVICES: There will be no evening services today. We pray you will enjoy a time of fellowship with family and friends and reflect upon our living Savior.

NEW SONG BOOKS: You will notice when you take a seat this morning that our new song books arrived this past week. Let's do our part to keep the books in good condition by putting them back on the chairs when services are over. Thank you.

REMINDER: Next Sunday, April 7, is the first Sunday of the month. There will be a second offering during morning services for our benevolence fund.

NEW ARRIVAL: Aaron and Shannon Justice are the proud parents of a baby girl. Sydney Marian Justice was born March 29; she weighed 7 lbs. 15½ oz. and was 20½ inches long. Little Landon is now a big brother. For those who are new to our congregation, the Justices worshiped with us for several years before moving back to the Midwest.

A FOND FAREWELL: Richard and Shara Billingslea are moving to Florida, to new jobs and warmer climate. Their last time of worship with us will be this Wednesday evening. We have been blessed to have them in our congregation and wish them well in their new location.

RECORDED SERMONS: The Sunday morning sermons are being recorded. If you missed part of the lesson or just need to hear God's word again, you can hear the sermons on our Internet site at: www.laplatacoc.com/sermons .

E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS: If you have any requests for the prayers of the congregation, please e-mail them to prayerrequest@laplatacoc.com . Adam Barr will send the information to the prayer request e-mail notification list. Also, if you have an announcement or information, other than a prayer request, for the members, send it to Adam at abarr@laplatacoc.com and he will distribute it via e-mail.

UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES:

- ✚ Apr. 2 Ladies Bible study class, church bldg., 10 a.m.
- ✚ Apr. 4, 11 Ladies Bible study, church bldg., 6:30 p.m.
- ✚ Apr. 13 Men's prayer breakfast, church bldg., 9 a.m.
- ✚ Apr. 16 Ladies Bible study class, church bldg., 10 a.m.
- ✚ Apr. 18, 25 Ladies Bible study, church bldg., 6:30 p.m.
- ✚ Apr. 28 Monthly fellowship meal
- ✚ Apr. 30 Ladies Bible study class, church bldg., 10 a.m.