

Rev 1:4b-6 **"Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."**

The word of God as found in the Gospel of Mark Chapter 16 verses 1 through 8.

**"Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. 2 Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. 3 And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" 4 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away -- for it was very large. 5 And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. 7 "But go, tell His disciples -- and Peter -- that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." 8 So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."**

So far the very words of our risen God. Dear fellow redeemed.

Doubt is something that is very natural to all of mankind. The sinfulness we've inherited from Adam and Eve completely corrupts our outlook on things spiritual. The very nature of sinful doubt can be seen in the way that Satan approached Eve in the garden, **"Has God indeed said"** Satan asked Eve. And so it was for the woman in our text for today. Satan had put the same kinds of words into the hearts of many of Jesus' followers.

The Marries and Salome were suffering from doubt that their old Adam was causing. Simply put, they didn't believe that Jesus would rise from the dead even though Jesus' words were clear on what would happen to Him after He would die on the cross. Mark 8:31 **"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again."** They fully expected to see His body lying in the tomb once they found someone to roll away the large stone that covered its entrance.

The women that morning took along with them spices that would be used as part of the funeral rights on the body of Jesus. And they were amazed by the message, the message given to them Mark 16:6 **"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him."**

And what about for ourselves? Have you doubted the resurrection of Jesus? It is likely that at one time or another you've thought to yourself "Is it really possible for a man to come back to life?" In our time people's hearts stop beating and they are brought back. But it's not really the same thing is it? Jesus was in the tomb for three days. Not once have we ourselves ever seen anything like that.

But the Marries and Salome approached the tomb of Jesus with the same attitude as we likely would. What are the odds? Having witnessed the death of Jesus on the cross our sinful nature as well says that there is no chance of someone coming back to life after what Jesus went through.

Therefore it is vital that we revisit the tomb of our risen God to strengthen the faith given to us by Him. Because the resurrection of Jesus shows us that **“The Father accepted Jesus’ death”** as the payment for all of our sins. And it shows that we will live forever with Him in heaven.

During Jesus’ ministry God the Father spoke this concerning His Son. Matthew 17:5 **“While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”**

During the ministry of Jesus the Father made it known that the things Jesus was doing were well pleasing to Him. But it wasn’t possible that this acceptance should only take place on the two occasions that the Father spoke directly about His Son.

Even when Jesus was a child He was faithful to the wishes and desires of His heavenly Father. Luke 2:49 **“And He said to them, “Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?”**

Others wondered if this Son of a carpenter was really the Messiah who was foretold by the Scriptures. John’s concern over his disciples was so strong and John’s hope was that his disciples follow Jesus. And this hope led John to send them to Jesus asking who He was. Luke 7:22 **“Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that *the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them.*”**

And when push came to shove and Jesus needed to make the ultimate sacrifice for us on the cross, Jesus didn’t shirk His love for us by avoiding being rejected by the Father. Matt. 26:39 **“He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’”**

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead was the Father’s final way of giving approval to the work that Jesus did on the cross. The resurrection is God’s public declaration of the justification of all mankind. Romans 4:25 **“He was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.”**

Without Jesus’ resurrection the words **“It is finished”** would have no meaning whatsoever. We would still be guilty because of our original sin. We would still be guilty of every sin committed by thought word and deed.

It was also vital that Jesus rise from the dead so that we can have confidence in our resurrection. If Jesus wiped away all sins in His death but didn’t have anything else in store for us in eternity it would be a very shallow plan indeed.

We would end up with the errors of the world which think, and actually hope that in death nothing else will happen. The soul would simply be destroyed or go into nothingness. But to have such a hope leads to despair and a life that is truly empty of purpose. The Lord didn't create us without a purpose. We were created to show forth the glories of our Designer and Creator. We were created to sing His praises forever. This was originally to be done here on earth. But our gracious God remedied the situation in Jesus so that we would sing His praises forever in a new heaven and a new earth.

**John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice**

But it's not only those who have fallen asleep who will be part of the resurrection.

**1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.**

If the Lord were to come during our lifetimes we have no need of worrying or having doubts about our final goal. The Lord has revealed to those who will be alive that they also through Jesus' resurrection will see that great day.

Doubts are not going to be uncommon for any of us. But when you do have them go back to the faith giving word just like the angles promoted in our text for today. **"But go, tell His disciples -- and Peter -- that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."** The angles understood that the word of God needed to be laid back onto the hearts of those who feared that Jesus was dead. They needed to have their fears set aside because they believed that someone simply came and stole the body of the Son of God.

The Father has promised that His word will not return to Him without doing what He wishes. And the will of the Father is that all believe in the death of His Son Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of all sins. With the final goal that we would all sing His praises forever along with the hosts of the angels.

One of the saddest things we see in every culture is what people believe happens to someone when they die. Mankind has a fear of death because of sin, even if someone denies it.

But all of you have confidence in the shedding of Jesus' blood because of His resurrection.

I pray that we don't hold ourselves up in a room like the disciples did out of fear. I pray that the Easter message is one that we will always be willing to proclaim to others. So that they also will know the peace that you have in Jesus control over life and death.

Lord Jesus thank you for conquering death for me. Amen.