

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Easter Sunday” John 20:1-18
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 20, 2014

When you think of men dying on a cross, you probably think immediately of Jesus Christ. But, over the years, there have been many men who have died by crucifixion. In 519 B.C., for example, the Persian king Darius crucified 3,000 Babylonians. In A.D. 66, the Romans crucified 3,600 Jews which started a revolt. By the time order was restored, the executioners had run out of wood for crosses. It is not merely that Jesus of Nazareth died by crucifixion which makes people look to him for salvation. It is the fact that he took all the sins of the world upon himself and three days later the tomb stood empty. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. According to Jesus, the resurrection would be the single greatest sign to mankind about who he truly was.

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: ***The empty tomb has changed how we look at life and how we look at the world.***

Teaching Point Two: ***Unfortunately, many of us are imprisoned by disbelief.***

Teaching Point Three: ***The resurrection offers us joyous hope.***

THIS WEEK’S MEMORY VERSE

⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying (Matthew 28:5-6 KJV).

ACTION POINT

We must come to a firm decision in our minds about the resurrection, because without the resurrection, there would be no Christianity. Both the resurrection of Christ and our own resurrection in the future make all the difference in the world. Something better lies ahead for all of us. If we have been raised with Christ in baptism and acceptance of him as our Lord and Savior, we can be joyously confident that we shall be raised with him for all eternity.

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