

Easter Sunday

April 24, 2011

Resurrection!

In the Year of our Lord 2011 this is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox which was March 21st.

Less informed people refer to it as Easter.

What is the Vernal Equinox?

Vernal comes from a Latin word that refers to spring and Equinox is the day in spring when the sun apparently crosses the equator in the northern hemisphere and the hours of day and night are about equal.

Easter can fall on any Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

This being April 24th it is about as late in the year that Easter can come.

In our system of rotation of speakers; Brothers Gables, Swain, Bungler, and me, it is my year to speak on the several "special" days that fall in 2011.

Easter!

Matthew 28:1-8

Now after the Sabbath, as the first *day* of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³ His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴ And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead *men*.

⁵ But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷ And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

⁸ So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

NKJV

It is nearly impossible for us to grasp the wonder and excitement of these two Mary's and then the disciples. A dead man that you knew and had watched being buried is ALIVE!

Resurrection!

Easter is about Resurrection and specifically the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. The resurrection is the central essential truth of Christianity.

Not to insult anyone's intelligence but preachers too often assume that their hearers understand the words they use. Perhaps there is some young person who has not yet understood what is meant by "resurrection".

Resurrection means that the Man, Jesus of Nazareth, really died. Jesus did not faint into a coma; He really died. And in the Jewish culture a dead person must be buried before sundown. They did not have funeral homes with cold storage where a body can be preserved from decay for as long as necessary.

So Jesus died and He was buried. Then just as He promised and according to the Old Testament Scriptures the Man who was really dead came back alive from the dead!

Resurrection means that the dead return to live again.

That has great significance for Christianity and for every individual Christian. Because He lives we shall live also.

Resurrection is the Christian hope!

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2 Corinthians 13:4

For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall live with Him by the power of God toward you.

And so Easter is indeed a special day on the Christian calendar. Correctly remembered and correctly celebrated it is more special than Christmas.

That said; it is perhaps not good to call any single event in the story of redemption more important than any other event.

Unless everything in the Gospel record had come to be fulfilled then no single event would have any true meaning.

The God's promise that the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent; the OT prophecies of a Deliverer out of Zion; the incarnation of the Word, the Logos; the Word becomes flesh and dwells among us; Jesus who lived the sinless life as a true Man; the miracles and signs that attested to His authority; the wonderful words of life that He spoke; the cruel trials by the Jews and the Romans; the crucifixion on the cross of Calvary; the burial of a dead Man in a borrowed tomb; and yes, the resurrection after three nights and three days; the ascension to the right hand of the Father; and the current intercession for His people; all of these great truths must be taken together in order for any single one of them to have the power to save guilty sinners.

The second Person of the Trinity had to become incarnate; God was born as a true Man according to the Scripture; the Word who was in the beginning, who is God, became flesh and tabernacled among us.

The True Lawgiver, the One who gave the Law to Moses so that Moses could give the Law to mankind, must Himself be born under the Law and live a perfect life of obedience, from His being circumcised on the eighth day after His birth, to His visit to the temple as a twelve-year old boy who baffled the rabbis with the wisdom of His questions and answers and then to answer Mary, His mother's anxious concern with, "Why is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" **Who told Jesus that God was His Father?**

After this time in the temple at age 12 there is a period of silence where we have almost no information about Jesus except that He worked as a carpenter. At the age of 30, the time that men began to serve in the priesthood, Jesus begins to declare that He is the Sent One from God the Father.

Jesus comes to the Jordan River where John the Baptist, the last OT prophet, is baptizing sinners who show evidence of repentance.

Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness; Jesus is immediately led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

After forty days of fasting and temptation Jesus comes forth victorious from His testing.

John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and points to Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

That Jesus is the singular Lamb of God means the final end of the Old Testament sacrificial system when He goes to the cross of Calvary.

There is no place in any theology for another sacrifice for sin!
Either in a “mass” or in a system of “restored” animal sacrifices.

After His baptism and for the next three and one-half years Jesus openly demonstrates to the religious leaders and to all of the people that He is the One to whom all the OT prophets gave witness.

After the last Passover that God will recognize, the Passover scheduled in God’s eternal counsel, Jesus of Nazareth was put on trial and suffered the contradiction of sinners against Himself, and the only sinless Man that ever lived was crucified and buried according the Old Testament Scriptures.

One night and day passes; a second night and day passes; a third night and day passes and then it **happened!** The grave cannot hold Him! His flesh cannot suffer corruption! The stone is rolled away from the place where they laid Him and He comes forth from the grave! Behold He is alive! He is alive forever more!

Resurrection! Resurrection! Resurrection!

Now while I have stressed the necessity of keeping all of the events of the Gospel record together there is something about the Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth that the Scriptures make as the central fact of saving faith.

In the past few weeks in our studies in the Book of Romans we have been teaching from Chapter 10.

Also, Brother Jim Gables used this same text in Romans in his message:
“A Clear Message for a Desperate Sinner.”

As Brother Gables pointed out the message is clear. If you will not accept what Jesus Christ has already DONE then nothing will ever satisfy your desire for evidence that you are accepted by God! It is not you who is accepted it is the blood of Jesus Christ that God accepts and you if by faith alone repent and believe in the Gospel!

Listen to how Paul says it:

Romans 10:1-13

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. ² For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. ³ For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. ⁴ For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

⁵ For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "*The man who does those things shall live by them.*" ⁶ But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "*Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'"*" (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*) ⁷ or, "*Who will descend into the abyss?'"*" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. ¹¹ For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*" ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. ¹³ For "*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*" NKJV

Have you ever "called" on the name, the authority, the person, of Jesus Christ?

It is design in this message to bring us to the Easter message; which is the resurrection on Jesus of Nazareth.

It is significant that every sermon recorded in the Book of Acts has the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth as its theme.

In this study of the resurrection on this Easter morning of 2011, I encourage you to find the passages of Scripture in your Bible and follow with me as I read them.

The Resurrection was promised and expected by those who understood.

But many people, e.g. the two on the road to Emmaus were sad.

Luke 24:13-27

¹³ Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And they talked together of all these things which had happened. ¹⁵ So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. ¹⁶ But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

¹⁷ And He said to them, "What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?"

[Notice how Jesus teaches. He did not ask for information, but He wants us to acknowledge and engage our thoughts.]

So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. ²² Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. ²³ When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. ²⁴ And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Resurrection!

There are a few instances of the dead being brought back to life in the OT.

The son of the widow of Zarephath was raised by Elijah. 1 K 17:22

1 Kings 17:17-24

¹⁷ Now it happened after these things *that* the son of the woman who owned the house became sick. And his sickness was so serious that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸ So she said to Elijah, "What have I to do with you, O man of God? Have you come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to kill my son?"

¹⁹ And he said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him out of her arms and carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. ²⁰ Then he cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, have You also brought tragedy on the widow with whom I lodge, by killing her son?" ²¹ And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." ²² Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived.

²³ And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"

²⁴ Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now by this I know that you *are* a man of God, *and* that the word of the LORD in your mouth *is* the truth."

The son of the Shunammite. 2 K 4:35

2 Kings 4:32-38

³² When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. ³³ He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. ³⁵ He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. ³⁶ And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son." ³⁷ So she went in, fell at his feet, and bowed to the ground; then she picked up her son and went out.

A dead man is restored to life when his body touched of the bones of Elisha.

2 Kings 13:20-22

²⁰ Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the *raiding* bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. ²¹ So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of *raiders*; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

All of these resurrections in the OT anticipated the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

We can only speculate as to how much knowledge Job had about a life after physical death. The Book of Job is thought to be the oldest book of the Bible, not of the period of history, but of its being a written record. It is likely that Moses had a copy of the Book of Job when he wrote the first five books of our Bible.

This is what Job said about a resurrection.

Job 14:7-15

"For there is hope for a tree,
If it is cut down, that it will sprout again,
And that its tender shoots will not cease.
⁸ Though its root may grow old in the earth,
And its stump may die in the ground,
⁹ Yet at the scent of water it will bud
And bring forth branches like a plant.
¹⁰ But man dies and is laid away;
Indeed he breathes his last
And where *is* he?
¹¹ As water disappears from the sea,
And a river becomes parched and dries up,
¹² So man lies down and does not rise.
Till the heavens *are* no more,
They will not awake
Nor be roused from their sleep.
¹³ "Oh, that You would hide me in the grave,
That You would conceal me until Your wrath is past,
That You would appoint me a set time, and remember me!
¹⁴ If a man dies, shall he live *again*?
All the days of my hard service I will wait,
Till my change comes.
¹⁵ You shall call, and I will answer You;
You shall desire the work of Your hands.

NKJV

Job 19:25-27

⁵ For I know *that* my Redeemer lives,
And He shall stand at last on the earth;
²⁶ And after my skin is destroyed, this *I know*,
That in my flesh I shall see God,
²⁷ Whom I shall see for myself,
And my eyes shall behold, and not another.

NKJV

A psalm of the sons of Korah.

Psalm 49:14-15

¹⁴ Like sheep they are laid in the grave;
Death shall feed on them;
The upright shall have dominion over them in the morning;
And their beauty shall be consumed in the grave, far from their dwelling.
¹⁵ But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave,
For He shall receive me. NKJV

What the prophet Isaiah gives us in his 53rd is worth reading all of it this morning.

Isaiah 53

Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.
He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should desire Him.
³ He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted,
Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.
⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment,
And who will declare His generation?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked —
But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.
¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
He has put *Him* to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,
He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days,
And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.
¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied.
By His knowledge *My* righteous Servant shall justify many,
For He shall bear their iniquities.
¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.

NKJV

Read Ezekiel 37 about the very dry bones that came to life under the preaching of the word of God.

Ezekiel 37:1-3

The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones. ² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. ³ And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

So I answered, "O Lord God, You know."

NKJV

Likewise the prophet Daniel wrote about a general resurrection of the saved and the lost.

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
Some to everlasting life,
Some to shame *and* everlasting contempt.

NKJV

Now as to the resurrection of Jesus there are these passages:

Psalm 16:8-10

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
Because *He is* at my right hand I shall not be moved.
⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;
My flesh also will rest in hope.
¹⁰ For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

NKJV

Jesus Himself foretold His resurrection but His disciples could not grasp the meaning.

It is tempting to think that if we had lived in that time we would have believed the Old Testament and surely we would have believed what Jesus said. No, we would not have any more understanding than they did until the Holy Spirit illuminated their minds.

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.

²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." NKJV

Matthew 20:17-19

¹⁷ Now Jesus, going up to Jerusalem, took the twelve disciples aside on the road and said to them, ¹⁸ "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, ¹⁹ and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again." NKJV

Matthew 26:31-35

³¹ Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

*'I will strike the Shepherd,
And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'*

³² But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

³³ Peter answered and said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble."

³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

³⁵ Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"

And so said all the disciples.

NKJV

As I have already pointed out every sermon recorded in the Book of Acts has the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth as its theme. It would be a good exercise for you to read through the Book of Acts sometime and highlight the references to the resurrection.

Let's look at a few of the passages in Acts.

Acts 1:1-3

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:22-24

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Acts 3:11-16

¹¹ Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. ¹² So when Peter saw *it*, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *Him* go. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Acts 4:32-33

³² Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. ³³ And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

Acts 5:29-32

²⁹ But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand *to be* Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also *is* the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

The resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is also emphasized in the epistles.

Romans 1:1-4

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ² which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴ *and* declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 4:23-25

²³ Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, ²⁴ but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Romans 10:9

... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, ¹⁶ do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

²² And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

My purpose has been to look at the absolute necessity for the believer, someone who claims to be a Christian, someone who confesses faith in what Jesus has done and who does not trust in any acts of personal obedience for their acceptance by God to believe that Jesus of Nazareth has arisen from the grave and that He is praying for you at this moment.

Jesus answered the pregnant question that Job asked.

Job 14:14

If a man dies, shall he live *again*?

And Jesus answered Job's question.

John 11:17-27

¹⁷ So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹ And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰ Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

Why was Jesus raised from the dead?

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the infallible proof that God the Father approved of the sacrifice of His beloved Son for the sin of His people. If by faith alone you can accept the obedient life and work of Jesus as your only hope of eternal life then you must call on the name of the Lord and you will be saved.

If you have been saved and have not yet joined a body of believers; or you have not yet submitted to baptism as a believer, then that is my invitation to you.

Talk with me or one of the other men of the church and we will give you our counsel as to what you should do.

That is about all I can do to preach an Easter sermon.

As I look out on this auditorium all I see is a bunch of sinners.

If I had a mirror by my side I could see the image of as big a sinner as God has ever showed mercy

But the Gospel is that God saves sinners.

Has the Holy Spirit ever convicted you of sin?

Have you ever seen the wickedness of your thoughts?

Have you ever realized that God doesn't owe you anything but condemnation?

If you can truthfully answer yes to those questions then put your total and complete trust in what Jesus has done for sinners and call on the name of the Lord and you will be saved.

Amen!