



# FROM THE PASTOR

*“The Resurrection did not result in a committee with a chairperson, but in a fellowship with an experience.” - anonymous*

Dear Friends,

If you've read the New Testament, and moved on past the gospels to the rest of the story of the early church in the Book of Acts, as well as to various epistles (letters), written to various churches (and some individuals), the most common proclamation is Jesus' resurrection. Even those who had no interest in this new religion noticed that Christians were together because of "someone named Jesus who was dead" but "Paul claimed was alive" (Acts 25:19).

So here is a question for us over two Thousand years later: *Is the resurrection of Jesus still the most essential part of our message?* Does the world outside the church, when they think of "Christians" instantly think of a group of people who proclaim Jesus as Lord, crucified, dead and RISEN?

Do we as Christians, by our actions give the impression to the world that the Resurrection of Jesus is the most important part of our faith? Maybe we in the church take the Resurrection of Jesus for granted, forgetting it is the basic reason worship was moved from Saturday to Sunday. Maybe we don't think of the resurrection as foundational to our relationship to God every day because we place all our emphasis on the resurrection for only one Sunday, Easter Sunday. Sometimes we in the church let ourselves get overwhelmed to the point of feeling defeated rather than being a "resurrection people" in our weekly routines, dealing with church "business", or with the unique challenges of being the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Some years ago, a pastor who was a gifted counselor, would ask a church member as that church member was trying to sort out a personal situation; "where's Jesus in all this?"

I would like to take and rephrase the question from that pastor to challenge us especially when we are dealing especially with a spiritual issue with the question; *"Where's the Resurrection of Jesus in all this?"*

May our celebration of Easter this year not just be the theme of a one day celebration, but the foundation and purpose for all we do. May all those who come in contact with us know that "we serve a risen savior; he's in the world today".

"Christ is Risen, Hallelujah!"

May you have blessed Holy Week and Easter,

Your brother in Christ,  
John

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