

He Is Risen!

Long Beach Alliance Church • Easter Sunday • April 4th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

*He is not here, but He has risen...
~Luke 24:6 (NASB)*

1) We Live In The Gap...

- A) In the beginning, God provided a place (Genesis 2:9), purpose (2:15-17, 19-20), provision (2:18, 21-25), and personal relationship (2:16-17, 3:9ff) for mankind.
- B) From the beginning mankind had a choice to make regarding God. Mankind could either respond to God with obedience, or respond with disobedience (2:16-17).
- C) Responding in obedience meant that the provisions which God had established would always be maintained. Responding in disobedience meant death (2:17).
- D) As we already know, mankind chose to disobey God, and with disobedience (as promised), death entered into mankind (1st Corinthians 15:21-22).
- E) For all mankind, the situation is completely hopeless (Romans 3:10-18). Given our own efforts, we could never know God again, nor would we even try (Romans 8:7).
- F) But God had a plan from the very beginning to restore a place (Revelation 21:1-3), purpose (15:4); provision (21:5, 22:1-2); and personal relationship (22:3-4).
- G) We live “in the gap” between the God’s original “very good” creation (Genesis 2:31) and His eventual “making all things new” (Revelation 21:5). So what do we do?

2) What Is God’s Plan For “The Gap?”

- A) God is motivated by His love (John 3:16) and mercy (Romans 3:25) to save mankind -- which is our only hope! God has made a way through Jesus Christ (John 14:6)!
- B) The only way to take hold of salvation is to have faith (trust) in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). What are we having faith in? Simply, it’s faith in Jesus.
 - i. First, we must “have faith” in Jesus Christ through the teaching of God’s Word, the Bible (Romans 10:17). This is the “content” of our faith.
 - ii. Second, we must “believe” that Jesus is Savior and that salvation is through Him alone (Hebrews 11:6). This is the “trust” element in faith.
 - iii. Third, we must be “faithful” and live righteous lives (Romans 1:17, 2 Timothy 2:11-13). This is how we “persevere” in faith.

3) This Is The Message Of Easter! God Is Fulfilling His Plan!

- A) How can we be sure that God’s plan really works? The answer? Because it worked with Jesus Christ (1st Corinthians 15:20)! He is the “first fruits” of “making all things new!”
- B) We know that Christ’s sacrifice was good and acceptable because He was resurrected (brought back to life) by God (1st Corinthians 15:17, 20-22).
- C) Jesus’ death paid for sin (once and for all, cf. Hebrews 10:12, 14, 18), and His resurrection seals that His sacrifice was sufficient and good (1st Corinthians 15:56-57).
- D) This is the message of Easter Sunday! How will you respond to Jesus Christ? What will you do with the truth of His life, death, and resurrection? Will you respond to His promise of a better future, His payment for sin, His fantastic resurrection, and His plan for life which never ends (Romans 6:23)?