

Keynotes from Pastor Tim's am YouTube Sermon on Easter Sunday 12th April 2020

A surprising work of the Spirit

(Please read these notes whilst watching or listening to the sermon)

Romans 9 verses 9-11

As Christians we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday.

John, one of Jesus' followers, was an eyewitness to what happened after Jesus had died

- John had seen Jesus die, watching as Roman soldiers hammered the nails into his hands and feet, then lifted the cross up to set it in place, dislocating Jesus' joints.
- He saw Jesus struggle to breathe then finally suffocating.
- He saw Jesus' lifeless body on the cross, and the blood flowing as a soldier thrust a spear into his side.

Fearful that the same things would happen to them, Jesus' followers hid themselves away in a locked room.

- John was there and reported this: **John 20:19-20** On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Imagine their surprise when Jesus appeared, not as a ghost but as a living person with the same body that had died and been buried, consisting of flesh and bones and recognisable as Jesus. He could be touched and eat food. Yet it was a body in some way much more glorious than the body that had been buried. John wasn't the only eyewitness – over 500 people saw Jesus alive after his death, but John both saw it and wrote it down.

Jesus really did die and rise to life and he is alive today in a resurrected body. Does this matter?

- It matters because death for us all is very real, as we are reminded every day.
- We all need to have hope in the face of death, not a vague hope that's based on imagination, but hope based on historical facts that have been witnessed

We need the hope that is based on the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:9-11 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

These verses show two things that are true for Christian believers:

1. **Currently we are dead and alive.** v10 tells us we are body and spirit.

- Our physical body is dead because of sin. Adam brought death into the world when he sinned against God. From the moment we take our first breath, we are set on a course for the grave.
- In our body we sin against God, using our hands, feet, eyes and mouths to carry out our sinful passions.

But Paul tells us an awesome fact in those verses – the eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, dwells in the body of every Christian believer.

- The Spirit of God dwells in our mortal bodies that are dead to sin – bodies doomed to die and susceptible to sin. Because of this a believer becomes truly alive – alive to God

A believer with the life of God in their body has:

- A new awareness of the reality of God in their lives, along with a new sense of the love of God, and a desire to please him
- A new power driving them to say no to sin and yes to righteousness
- A new impulse to pray and listen to what God has to say in his word.

A Christian has a body that is dead because of sin. We will still do things we know to be wrong, and physical death will still happen. **Yet our spirit is alive because of righteousness.** We will run to Christ when we sin, and trust in his death and resurrection to make us right with God, knowing we are still accepted as his children. We grieve over sin and long for a day when we shall be free of all of this.

2. One day we shall be fully alive

Romans 8:11 tells us that the Spirit that dwells in the mortal body of every believer is the same Spirit that raised Jesus to life 2000 years ago. The Spirit that has already given life to our spirit will one day raise to life our mortal bodies after our physical death and burial. It will be a real body, but far more glorious:

- A body no longer suffering the effects of sin, and fully redeemed so that sin no longer dwells in it
- A body created and made for eternity, where none of the parts will wear out and stop working

We see this in **Phil 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself

What does this mean for us? One very small word in Romans 8: 9-11 is Paul's answer. IF Christ is in you and IF the Spirit...dwells in you

All this is only true for those who have trusted in Jesus alone for their righteousness and have the Spirit of God indwelling them. If not, then both body and spirit are dead and what awaits is a resurrection to eternal death.

How can I be sure I have the Spirit of God?

1. You will know a daily battle in your heart. Paul describes this in **Romans 7:21-**

23 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand.

²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

- We sin with our body but our spirit is grieved because of it.

2. You will be more concerned to be guided by God's Spirit than the world's wisdom. Romans 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

- You will find that when faced with a decision, you will look to God and his word for guidance.

3. You will be making progress in sanctification. Romans 8:12-13 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

- We will not live according to the flesh, or the world's standards and values. Instead we will put to death the sinful passions that rage within our body. We can only do this by the Spirit, as we rely on God to give us the will and the strength to actively put sin to death.

4. You will know God to be your Father. Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

- We will have a growing awareness of God's fatherly love for us, and will accept the hard things he brings into our lives as loving discipline for our good.

Are these things true of you? If not, how can you experience the Spirit?

- you need to repent – to turn away from sin and follow Jesus
- you need to trust in Jesus alone for your righteousness

Then you will have the assurance that when Jesus returns your body will be redeemed, never to die or to sin again.

That is the glorious hope that Christ's resurrection has secured for those of us who have the Spirit of God in us.

To be further blessed by the great hope that is ours, please look at **1 Corinthians 15: 50 – 56** and ask God, by his Spirit, to speak to you through His Word.