**[Easter: Why the Cross and the Empty Tomb Matter to You]**

Easter Sunday

4/21/2019

*The reality of what we face:*

If we are going to see the resurrection for what it truly is then we must first see *the reality we face*.

Each one of us (all people) must first see the actuality of our own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (things we do that our against God’s commands) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for a savior. Then, we will truly see why an empty grave matters to us.

Any sin, all sin, every sin makes us unrighteous before God. The Bible teaches us that *everyone* has broken God’s commands and sinned in some way.

God defines what sin is because He Himself is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*The reality of God’s grace:*

The good news for you and I and everyone is that God, in his love, gives us the opportunity for forgiveness and grace by the work of His son.

The people of God are those who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the reality of what they face and because of that have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in the reality of God’s grace to us through Jesus Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

For Christians, all of us were the ‘some as you’.

To be **washed** means that our sin has been \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The unrighteousness that once caused us to not inherit the kingdom has been taken away by Jesus’ cross and empty tomb.

To be **sanctified** means that we are becoming more like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and less like who we were before we knew Christ and believed in him because of God’s work in us.

To be **justified** means that we have a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and we have been saved from the penalty of sin. At one time before we knew Christ, we were known only as sinners and enemies of God. But now in Christ, our standing before God has changed. He no longer sees us for our own works. Rather, He sees us in the light of the work of Christ (His perfect life, sacrificial death, and resurrection). We are no longer enemies, but sons and daughters of God because of Jesus.

Jesus Christ was uniquely qualified to pay the penalty for your sin and my sin because he was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and without sin Himself.

None of this is possible without the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If Jesus had not risen from the grave, then none of us would have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

An empty tomb means that death and sin do not have to have the final word for us. The power of sin is broken and death has been defeated for those who believe in this savior!

*Application:*

If you do not know Christ, your **biggest** problem is not a particular sin or group of sins that you struggle with. No, your biggest problem is the sin of *unbelief* in Jesus Christ and all He has done so that you might be made righteous, have forgiveness, and inherit the kingdom of God.

What does the cross and the empty tomb mean for you today?

The power of Jesus’ cross and resurrection is strong enough to save you and grant you forgiveness, grace, and hope.

No one is ‘too bad’ or ‘too good’ for the salvation that Jesus gives.

The cross matters because of the death of the one who died. The resurrection matters because it means that death has been defeated and the power of sin is no more for ANYONE who believes in Jesus Christ and all His life, death, and resurrection accomplished on their behalf.

**Blanks:**  sin & need; perfect & creator; know & belief; removed; Christ; identity; perfect; resurrection; hope.