

Kootenai Communicator

April 2021

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

April

4 Resurrection Breakfast

19 Men's Fellowship

Looking ahead...

May 15 Ladies' Retreat

May 21-22 Equipping Conference

*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,
Exalting the Savior*



Faith Founded on Fact

By Jim Osman, Pastor/Teacher

Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ every Sunday. The Lord rose from the dead on a Sunday. The early Christians gathered on Sunday for worship, fellowship, and teaching. The resurrection was so significant that the early church, from the earliest days, set apart Sunday to celebrate the risen Christ.

Christians don't need to have the resurrection "proved" to them. We **know** that Christ is the risen Lord (Romans 10:9-10). We know that if Jesus is not risen, our faith is worthless. This article provides a brief overview of the evidence for the resurrection and I hope it will serve to strengthen your faith, give you confidence in your witnessing, and kindle a love and a fire in your heart for the Lord.

For the unbeliever, there is no marshaling of evidence that will convince him of the historicity of the resurrection. Evidence cannot cause the unbeliever to repent and believe. The soldiers at the tomb did not repent and believe when they saw the stone moved and the angels appear. They spread a lie to cover up the truth. The presentation of evidence will not convince anyone. It only demonstrates that their refusal to believe in Christ is not for intellectual reasons, but rather moral and spiritual reasons. **Men and women reject the truth not because they lack evidence, but because they love darkness.**

Faith is not a blind leap into a dark chasm. Faith is not wishful thinking. We don't believe in myths and legends. Christian faith is founded on fact.

The Christian faith is so intimately connected to testable historical claims that if those claims can be proven to be false, the entire Christian faith must also crumble. Christianity is falsifiable. If it can be shown that what we believe happened never actually happened, the entire Christian faith must crumble to the ground as the greatest deception ever offered to the minds of men.

In Volume II of *The Fundamentals* edited by R.A. Torrey and published in the early 1900s, Torrey writes, "If the Scriptural assertions of Christ's resurrection can be established as historic certainties, the claims and doctrines of Christianity rest upon an impregnable foundation. On the other hand, if the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead cannot be es-

tablished, Christianity must go." Torrey notes in that article that a leading and brilliant agnostic in England in his time claimed, "The essential question is, 'Did Jesus Christ rise from the dead?' If He did, it is easy enough to believe the other miracles; but if not, the other miracles must go." This is the central event upon which all human history turns.

The resurrection of Christ is the center of Christianity. It is explicitly affirmed more than 100 times in the New Testament. The longest explanation of the significance and implications of the resurrection is found in 1 Corinthians 15. The first four verses show how central the resurrection was to the gospel message. It **defines** the gospel.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4: "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." The resurrection of Christ is indispensable to the gospel.

Paul was not describing a spiritual resurrection. Nor did he suggest that resurrection was a "metaphor" or an "allegory" for eternal life. He was defending a resurrection that happened in space and time, in actual history. It was a bodily resurrection witnessed by many people.

Paul lists some of the resurrection appearances in verse 5: **"He appeared to Cephas and then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also."**

Paul's own encounter with the risen Christ happened on the Damascus Road recorded in Acts 9. If Christ did not rise and appear to many, as claimed, then the Christian faith is empty, useless, and provides no hope for anyone. **"Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain" (1 Corinthians 15:12-14).**

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Some in Corinth denied the reality of bodily resurrection. The implications of such a denial are profound. Christ could not have risen in a physical body if bodies do not rise. If Christ is not risen, then the gospel we have preached (a gospel of a risen Savior) is false. If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is useless and, frankly, absurd. The same must be said of your faith. If you have believed that Christ is risen and He hasn't, you have believed a lie.

The implications of denying bodily resurrection go even further. Paul continues in verse 15: **"Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised."**

It is one thing to believe a lie, it is another thing to lead others to believe a lie by actively promoting it. If Christ is not raised, then we have believed a lie, promoted a lie, and actually testified *against* God by lying about His work. If the dead are not raised, then it is a blasphemy to proclaim the resurrection, for that is to say things concerning God and Christ which are not true. That is serious business.

Paul sums up these points by restating them in verses 16 and following: **"For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins."** The forgiveness of sins requires resurrection. A dead man Who could not triumph over the grave has no ability to guarantee your triumph over the grave.

"Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied" (1 Corinthians 15:18,19). We are a sad lot indeed. If Christ is not risen, we are of all men most to be pitied. We have lied, believed a lie, and hoped in vain.

Did Christ rise from the dead? Paul boldly claimed, **"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:20).** If He did, then everything else we believe, everything we teach, everything we hope for is certain. If not, it all crumbles.

What is the Evidence?

It takes far less faith to believe that God raised Jesus of Nazareth from the grave than it does to believe any of the other silly theories offered to explain away the historical details.

Gary Habermas is the foremost authority on the resurrection of Christ in the world today. He collected and reviewed 1,400 critical scholarly works on the resurrection written between 1975 and 2003 and wrote a book titled *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. Habermas reports that nearly all scholars from across the ideological spectrum agree on twelve historical facts. Whether ultra-unbelieving liberals or fundamentalist Bible-thumping conservatives, nearly all scholars agree that the following twelve statements concerning Jesus of Nazareth and Christianity are actual historical facts.

1. Jesus died by Roman crucifixion. He didn't live to old age, wed Mary Magdalene, move to France, and begin a dynasty - contrary to Dan Brown and *The DaVinci Code*. Jesus of Nazareth was crucified on a Roman cross outside the city of Jerusalem in the spring of 33 A.D. Everyone at the cross, the executioners, His enemies, and everyone who handled the body confirmed He was dead.

2. He was buried in a private tomb. His body was not thrown into a pit or common grave. History shows from all ancient writings that touch on the subject that His body was hurriedly wrapped in grave clothes and placed in a borrowed garden tomb. His followers, although scattered and disillusioned, treated the body of Jesus with utmost dignity and respect.

3. Soon afterward, the disciples were discouraged, bereaved, and despondent, having lost hope. Their hopes rested on Jesus being the promised Messiah. Just days before the crucifixion they were discussing which of them would be greatest in the kingdom. Then He was crucified and laid in a tomb. To say that the disciples were shell-shocked is an understatement. They were devastated. They

thought they had been deceived into wasting three years of their lives. The shepherd had been struck and the sheep had been scattered.

4. Jesus' tomb was found empty very soon after His interment. There was an empty tomb. Every evidence from history points to the empty tomb. The body was gone. To deny that the tomb was empty would be akin to denying that Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Even historical sources hostile to Christianity admitted that the tomb was empty. Those who crucified Christ never argued that the body was still in the tomb. Instead, they were forced to explain the empty tomb by paying the soldiers to spread the rumor that the disciples had stolen the body.

5. The disciples had experiences that they believed were actual appearances of the risen Jesus. Nobody can deny that Peter, James, John, even Thomas, believed that they saw Jesus alive three days after He was crucified. The skeptic may not believe that they saw Jesus alive, but they have to explain why the disciples believed they saw Jesus alive.

6. Due to these experiences, the disciples' lives were thoroughly transformed. They were even willing to die for their belief. How do we explain their transformation from a group of downcast, disillusioned, and doubting men who cowered in locked rooms in fear of the authorities, into a band of bold, rock-solid, confident, proclaimers of the resurrection? All but one of the remaining eleven disciples gave their lives for their belief in the resurrection. To their dying breath they remained unflinching. The transformation of the disciples from timid cowards to bold preachers has to be explained. Men will die for what they believe to be true, but nobody will die for what they know to be false.

7. The proclamation of the resurrection took place very soon after the tomb was found empty. Within seven weeks, these men went from cowering in the corner to strutting through the streets preaching Christ. They did not wait fifty years and then begin to assert the resurrection. They began to proclaim the news immediately.

8. The disciples' public testimony and preaching of the resurrection took place in the city of Jerusalem, where Jesus had been crucified and buried weeks before. They did not travel into some far remote jungle to preach the resurrection of Christ. Their preaching began in the very city and among the very people who were eyewitnesses to the crucifixion. Their preaching began among the very people most able to disprove their claims.

The location of the tomb was public information. Anyone who doubted what Peter and John preached in the temple on any given morning could walk down to the grave that afternoon and look inside for themselves. What happened to the body?

If they had gone to the far reaches of the Empire to preach a risen Christ, it would have been difficult for hearers to falsify or verify the claims. In Jerusalem, the enemies of Christianity could demonstrate the Apostles were frauds by producing evidence that Jesus was not risen. That would have killed Christianity in the cradle, yet nobody produced the evidence. Nobody.

9. The gospel message centered on the preaching of the death and bodily resurrection of Jesus. The death and resurrection of Christ was the central message of these men who preached in Jerusalem only weeks after the crucifixion. They didn't hit the streets with a message of self-reliance and positive thinking. They didn't preach a Christianity focused on loving your neighbor, helping the poor, or improving the moral social order. Their message was not about political activism, community involvement, or social justice. It was about the resurrection.

It was the one message that angered the authorities and elicited their persecution. They could have preached on a hundred topics that wouldn't raise anyone's ire. They chose the one topic that would cause them untold suffering, and they wouldn't let it go.

10. Sunday was the primary day for gathering and worshiping. What does that have to do with the resurrection? The day of worship and rest for Jews was Saturday. The early church was initially composed ex-

Sunday School <<<

PRE-K/K Class: Taught by Katie Moon and Angie Cates

Assisted by Amanda Hammond

We are having a wonderful time in the Pre-K/K Sunday school class. This sweet group of children has finished up their study of Jesus-His life, death, and resurrection. We are excited to dive into the book of Acts and discover the times and trials of the early church.

Sunday
School
begins at
9:30 a.m.



>>> Missionary Moment— Life Choices Pregnancy Center

Our vision is to see you succeed no matter life's circumstances.



We are committed to sharing the unconditional love of Christ through our Prevention, Intervention, and Reconciliation Programs.

These programs provide support and education, without judgment, to those facing situations related to unintended pregnancy, abortion, sexual health, and family life.

We provide educational support, limited medical services, and compassionate coaching in conjunction with existing churches, institutions and individuals. We are here for you, no matter what you decide.

How Can I Help? <https://lifechoicespc.org/get-involved/>

Yokes eScrip - every purchase you make will make a small contribution.

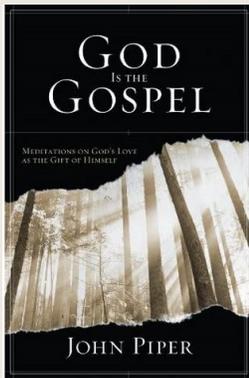
Safe Families - Safe Families for Children is a network of families who volunteer to care for your children for as long as you need. Our goal is to keep your family intact. Once you feel like you and your home environment are stable and healthy, we'll work with you to reunite your family as soon as possible.

Baby Bottle Boomerang The Baby Bottle Boomerang usually begins on Mother's Day with empty baby bottles and ends on Father's Day when the baby bottles come back to us full. We invite families to pick up their empty bottle(s) and pray for our clients as they fill the bottle(s) with loose change, bills and/or checks.

Volunteer Opportunities

In an effort to keep our costs low, our ministry has several volunteer opportunities. All of the opportunities require a minimum of a 2-hour training, and most require 24 hours of training spread out over 12 weeks. For more information, please contact Diane, our Education Coordinator at (208) 263-7621 or email diane@lifechoicespc.org.

>>>Garden of Readin'



God Is the Gospel

by John Piper

What is the greatest gift imaginable? To dwell with God in His glory forever! In *God Is the Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself*, John Piper, a pastor and prolific author, directs the reader's attention to how God Himself, as revealed in Christ, is the greatest gift of the gospel. Packed with Scripture, *God Is the Gospel* is an appropriate book to read and mull over as we prepare our hearts for Resurrection Sunday.

Please contact Jenny Leo (208-610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.



Women's Ministry <<<

2021 Ladies' Retreat

May 15

8:30a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Just for this year
we will be meeting at

Kootenai Community Church
Featuring author and speaker

Martha Peace

Martha Peace will be bringing us four sessions to encourage and strengthen our knowledge of who God is and His character.

Session 1:

Martha's Personal Testimony

Session 2:

The Goodness of God

Session 3:

The Mercy of God

Session 4:

The Wisdom of God



More information and registration available at the Welcome Table.

>>>Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.



SPRING RETREAT

APRIL 9-10, 2021

TIME: 5 P.M. FRIDAY - 4 P.M. SATURDAY

FOR: TEENS

COST: CONTACT THE OFFICE.

Each spring we love to welcome teens from the area to come and be challenged in their walk with Christ. Our Spring Retreat for Teens is specifically designed to encourage, challenge and disciple teens. Whether you are firmly grounded in your faith or simply wondering what it means to follow Christ, you will enjoy coming to this retreat. Make some new friends, spend time asking questions and enjoy the games and activities during the event! Open to all teens!

Student Ministries <<<

APRIL

7 Guys' and Girls' Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.

14 Youth Group @ KCC, 7-9 p.m.

21 Guys' and Girls' Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.

28 Youth Group @ KCC, 7-9 p.m.



>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenai thunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.

JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Thunder junior high basketball wrapped up their season with the end-of-season tournament. The girls team won 4th place. The boys team won 3rd place. The teams have done really well and we are blessed to have been able to provide a season for the families.

Consider joining Thunder as a ministry opportunity if you have any coaching experience or just enjoy sports. We can always use the help!



Kootenai Classifieds >>>

Homegrown Veggies

Now: red and yellow onions

For prices call Andrea Kinne 208-265-0102



ALL NATURAL GROUND BEEF 90% LEAN

\$4.00/lb.

Contact Tim Shields 208-946-1256 or cow.chaser1@yahoo.com

To have your items listed in this section, please get the information to Lisa Slippy by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Email her at lisaslippy@gmail.com

CANON CAMERA FOR SALE

We have a 35 mm Canon camera, uses film only, practically new. Only used a few times. Would like to sell to someone that's interested in photography. It has a case and extra lens, all new. Asking \$50, unless someone is really interested and can't pay, we'll give it to you. Contact Rick or Kathy Palmer. 406-847-8735

>>>Adventure Club



Weekly Attendance. As the weather warms up and the sun comes out, more children attend Adventure Club! We've had about 45 children attend each Friday night for the last few weeks. We are so thankful for our weekly Bible Club, and a chance to share the gospel and God's Word with these children.

The First Year. Our first year running Adventure Club has been . . . well, an adventure! We have not advertised this club outside of our own church, so we've had a lower number of children attending than what we had hoped to have. We end our first year on May 28, with "Round-Up Night."

Our Second Year. This summer we will be purchasing all of our Year 2 materials and scheduling leader training. We will be mailing an AC flyer to all residents in Kootenai and Ponderay. That will reach a lot of families, and we hope to see our club grow because of this.

Leaders and Leaders-in-Training. Leaders are all of our adults and high school juniors and seniors. Leaders-in-Training are 7th grade - 10th grade helpers. If you are interested in joining our leadership team, please talk to Dave & Diane Rich about this. It's a real joy to come together on Friday nights at our church and work together to run Adventure Club. It's a time of fellowship between leaders, as well as with our clubbers.

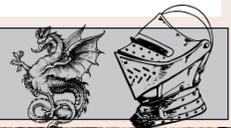
Club Nights

- April 2 Regular Club Night
- April 9 Review 4 Night! Review the last 5 lessons!
- April 16 Medieval Night! Dress Up!
- April 23 Regular Club Night
- April 30 Regular Club Night

Questions? Talk to Dave & Diane Rich.

MEDIEVAL NIGHT April 16

Dress up in a medieval theme - princes, princesses, knights, dragons, peasants - use your imagination! There will be prizes!!



KCC SPRING EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

The Life and Ministry of Charles Spurgeon

Featuring author and speaker

Phil Johnson

May 21-22, 2021



Phil is the executive director of Grace to You. He has been closely associated with John MacArthur since 1981 and edits most of Pastor MacArthur's major books. Phil also founded several popular websites including The Spurgeon Archive, The Hall of Church History, and the Pyromaniacs blog. He is an ordained elder and pastor at Grace Community Church.



COST

Through March 31
Single \$50
Couple/Family \$90
(Ages 12+)

April 1-30
Single \$60
Couple/Family \$100

At the door:
Single \$85
Couple/Family \$135

Church News <<<

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP
Monday, April 19
6:30 p.m.
At KCC



PHOTOS PLEASE! As our church body grows, it is nice to have a resource for new folks to get to know us. Please upload a recent picture of you and your family into our online church directory. Or you can email secretary@kootenaichurch.org. Also, we have upgraded the directory to include an elders and deacons page so that you can get to know who the leaders are at KCC.



KCC CHURCH CAMPOUT
JULY 21-24
(details later)



clusively of faithful, believing Jews. How do you account for the fact that, immediately, they abandoned Saturday as the day of rest and started meeting on Sunday? The Sabbath was a holy day celebrated for centuries. Saturday observance was deeply ingrained in these Jews. Yet, by general consent, they started observing Sunday. Only the resurrection could explain that sudden drastic change among devout Jews.

11. James, the brother of Jesus and a skeptic before this time, was converted when he believed he also saw the risen Jesus.

12. A few years later, Saul of Tarsus (Paul) became a Christian believer, due to an experience that he also believed was an appearance of the risen Christ. From history and Paul's own testimony, we know that he was a blasphemer, a persecutor of the church, and a violent aggressor. He was as opposed to the Christian faith and message as anyone could be. He was its single greatest opponent. Yet, he became Christianity's most famous advocate, most arduous preacher, and most prolific author. He was convinced he was preaching the truth and he went to his death for that belief.

What did Paul have to gain by changing from persecutor to preacher? He had nothing to gain and everything to lose. Indeed, by his own testimony, he suffered the loss of all things for the sake of Christ.

Unbelievable Theories

Skeptics have attempted to account for these undeniable facts by suggesting various theories.

Theory #1: The Hallucination Theory. This theory claims that the disciples did not really see Jesus alive after the crucifixion, rather, they hallucinated. Wanting to see Jesus alive, and believing He would rise, they began to hallucinate a risen Christ.

The problems with the theory are legion. First, they didn't expect the resurrection. In fact, that was the last thing they expected.

Second, hallucinations do not happen to groups of people but to individuals. Jesus appeared not only to individuals but to groups. Are we supposed to believe that the eleven disciples all had the exact same hallucination at the same exact time? What about the 500 people? Did they all hallucinate the exact same thing at the exact same time?

Third, these men and women did not just claim to see Jesus, but to eat with, talk with Him, and touch Him.

Fourth, hallucinations usually start slowly and grow gradually more intense and frequent over time. Defying that pattern, the resurrection appearances came on suddenly and then stopped after 40 days.

What about the empty tomb? Why didn't the authorities who desired to discredit Christianity simply produce the body? They couldn't. And are we to believe that Saul, a vehement hater of Christians was converted by a mere hallucination under the desert sun?

Theory #2: Wrong Tomb Theory. According to this theory, the women went to the wrong tomb on that Sunday morning. Distressed and crying, they lost their way and arrived at the wrong tomb. Upon seeing it empty, they jumped to the conclusion that Jesus had risen, all the while His body was in a nearby and different grave.

Why didn't the authorities produce the body then? Are we to believe that all the women went to the wrong tomb? Are we to believe that at no point in the rest of their lives did they realize that they had the wrong tomb? Peter and John went to the wrong tomb? The soldiers fled from the wrong tomb? Joseph of Arimathea went to the wrong tomb? It was after all, his tomb. Everyone went to the wrong tomb?

And are we to believe that this monumental error went undetected for years while nobody stepped forward to point out this obvious error and silence the Apostles?

If it is merely a case of a mistaken tomb, how do you explain the appearances? What about all those people who believed they saw Him alive, ate with Him, talked with Him, and touched Him?

Theory #3: The Swoon Theory. This is my personal favorite. According to this theory, Jesus didn't really die on the cross, He merely swooned or passed out. Everyone thought He was dead, so they took Him off the cross and buried Him

in the tomb. Then, revived by the cold, damp environment, Jesus rolled away the stone and presented Himself alive to His followers.

Once again, the universal testimony of everyone at or near the cross who had anything to do with the body of Jesus was that He was dead. The executioners, whose job was to make sure their victims died, verified that Jesus was dead. Pilate requested verification of death before giving the body to Joseph of Arimathea.

Are we to believe they were all mistaken; the executioners, the soldiers, Pilate, the women at the cross, the disciples at the cross, Joseph of Arimathea, those who prepared His body for burial, and those who placed the body in the tomb?

Is it rational to believe that after the brutal torment, the spear-pierced side, and with pierced hands and feet, Jesus was able to roll that enormous stone up and away from the grave opening, fight off the group of highly-trained Roman soldiers guarding the tomb, and walk into town on nail-pierced feet to present Himself alive from the dead as the victorious Lord of Life?

Jesus would have been a helpless, bleeding, battered, pulp of a man Whom the disciples would pity not worship. They would never have proclaimed, "He is risen." They would have said, "He needs a doctor!"

Would this have transformed them? They didn't preach a resuscitated Jesus who narrowly escaped death, but a Christ who actually died and was victorious over death. They claimed that He was the Lord of life, not a good patient who recuperated quickly. Are we to believe that all these men died for what they knew was merely an exaggeration?

Theory #4: The Disciples Stole the Body. This theory claims that the disciples were deceivers and not merely dupes. You may remember from the gospel of Matthew, that this was the very story the authorities paid the soldiers to spread, a tacit admission, by the way, that the tomb was empty. However, this is as preposterous as any of the previous theories.

How did the disciples get past the highly-trained elite Roman guards stationed at the tomb? What about the resurrection appearances to those not in on the ploy? How do you explain Paul's conversion? How about the 500 eyewitnesses?

Are we to believe that all eleven disciples were willing to die for what they knew to be a lie? Should we believe that they sacrificed family, possessions, houses, occupations, respect, loved ones, and even life for their lie? Not one of them confessed to it. Not one was willing to renounce the story. Who would believe that Peter, having denied Christ three times previously, would face being crucified upside down rather than confess it was all a lie?

How come nobody ever saw the stolen body? How did they keep that a secret and foist this lie upon thousands in only a few weeks' time?

The Eternal Implications

The body was missing. The tomb was empty. More than 500 people claimed to see Him alive. If each of those 500 eyewitnesses were to give only six minutes of testimony in a court of law, it would provide over fifty hours of eyewitness testimony. That would be the most lopsided trial in all of history! The evidence rests on the side of the literal, physical, historical bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our Lord is Risen! He presented Himself alive with many convincing proofs. Death could not hold Him!

The implications of the resurrection are the same today as they were 2000 years ago. For the unbeliever who will not turn from sin and trust Christ, the implications of the resurrection are staggering. He is the Lord of Life. He is the judge of all mankind. If He is risen, then the destiny of all men is in His hands. If you will not embrace Him as your Savior, you will face Him as your judge.

He is the Creator Who will judge you for your sin. You have violated God's law and rebelled against Him. You are an enemy of God by wicked works. God is good and just, and He will punish lawbreakers and sinners. Hell is the des-

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www.kootenaichurch.org

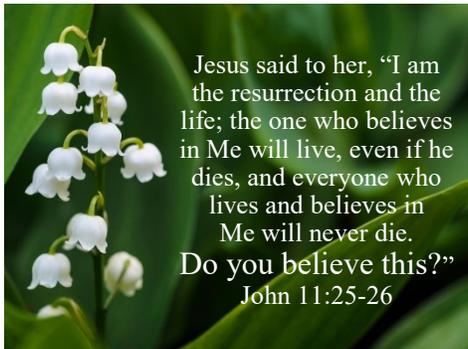
tiny of all who refuse to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

The Father sent His Son, Jesus Christ, Who is God in human flesh to die on a cross and take the punishment for your sin. God punished Jesus for sin, so that if you will repent and believe on Him, trusting in Him to save you, He will forgive your sin. He will remove your guilt, and you will escape the judgment that you are due. Jesus took the wrath of God on behalf of those who will trust in Him. If you will not repent and trust Christ, then you will bear the guilt for your own sin for eternity. He is ready to forgive if you will call out to the Lord for mercy and accept the free gift of eternal life that He offers.

For believers, the resurrection means we don't face the wrath of God. Our sins were atoned for. We have the certainty of Heaven. We will live on a resurrected earth in resurrected bodies with a resurrected Lord. This life is not the end. We have shunned the pleasures and passions of this passing world because we have set our hope on the glories to come. We have given up our allegiance to and our affections for this world, turning our back on what it offers. We persevere through sufferings and trials not because we think that this life is good but because we know that death is gain.

Jesus rose, defeating death and taking away the fear of death. The resurrection of Christ means that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord forever.

He is Risen!
He is Risen Indeed!



Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die.

Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

Resurrection Sunday, April 4

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

8:30-9:30 a.m.



DETAILS

- Breakfast is cooked and served by the men in our church and will consist of eggs, ham, pancakes, coffee and juice.
- If you would like to help in any way, serve, or donate food, please contact Thomas Leo at 208-818-0590.
- **Please sign up** for your family (and any others coming with you on that Sunday) at the **Welcome Table** or call the church office.