

“For He is Risen”

One of the great claims of Scripture is that Jesus the Christ was raised from the dead. Our conviction in that fact will shape our faith. It is necessary in the proclamation of the Gospel yet it may be the most challenged piece of that message. Very few would argue against the fact that Jesus lived, he lived during the time period of the Roman Empire, that he was crucified on a cross, and he was buried in a tomb. Both Biblical and secular history concur on these facts. The challenge for many comes when determining whether Jesus arose from that grave. I readily admit that my belief in His resurrection is based in my convictions concerning the Biblical record. I submit the following to encourage your faith in the same.

- I believe in the testimony of those who initially saw the empty tomb. *“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.”* (Matthew 28:6-8)
- I believe that many saw him after his resurrection. *“And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once;”* (1 Corinthians 15:6)
- I believe that the Gospel is incomplete without the resurrection. *“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
- I believe that the resurrection of Jesus brings the promise of our resurrection. *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”* (1 Corinthians 15:20)

No other religion has the ability to make the claim of a risen Savior. Let the witnesses within Scripture strengthen your faith in the greatest victory ever won. The victory over death and the power that it once held. Through the resurrection of Jesus we have hope, joy, and peace that could not be experienced otherwise. *“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”* (1 Corinthians 15:54-55)

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of “The Paden City Messenger.” This publication is brought to you by the members of the Paden City Church of Christ in an effort to share the great news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The message of the Gospel has the ability to impact our lives in ways that no other message can. We hope that this publication will help in your study of God’s Word.

“The import of bridging that span is found in the difference between knowing in the mind and believing in the heart.”

The Head & The Heart

(Jerome Sasanecki...from the Danville Enlightner)

Someone once said the longest bridge the Christian must span is from his head to his heart. Those 18 inches may not seem like much but they make up the longest distance in the world and the most crucial spiritual journey we will ever make. The import of bridging that span is found in the difference between knowing in the mind and believing in the heart.

On one side is the intellect. What we believe in our heart must make sense in our mind. This is true. Biblical faith is based on the solid truth of God’s promises, what the Hebrew writer connects to our hope, calling it “an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast” (Hebrews 6:19). This is why faith is described as the “substance of things hoped for” (Hebrews 11:1) which offers a great word picture. Faith stands under (“sub”—“stance”), as a supporting structure, our hope. This is why hope based on faith in God’s promises will never put us to shame (Romans 10:11). What we believe in our heart must make sense in our mind. The Creator made us intellectual creatures and so gives us assurance in His word.

For instance, we know intellectually certain things to be true. “By faith we understand that the world's were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible” (Hebrews 11:3). We look around at the ordered, beautiful universe in which we live and God expects us to make that intellectual necessary inference: “I AM.” When confronted with creation the logical thinking mind will be driven to the only plausible explanation. This is precisely Paul’s point in Romans 1 in his indictment of the Gentile world. “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). He goes on to say that they refused to acknowledge what the evidence proved and received the due penalty for their error (Romans 1:21-32).

But faith is not merely intellectual inasmuch as God has also created us as emotional beings. And so, many people struggle with the reverse: what I know in my mind must also make sense in my heart. Emotional intelligence and intellectual intelligence are both necessary parts in our turning to the Lord. Some people may have a tendency to amputate the emotion

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Paden City Church Of Christ



“To God be the Glory”

Encouraging glory to God in our community and yours.

March 19-23, 2017

Sunday @ 9:30am, 10:15am, and 6:30pm

Monday-Thursday @ 7:00pm

Guest Speaker...Jerome Sasanecki

Sunday @ 9:30am...Honor and Shame in the Ancient World

Sunday @ 10:15am... Honor and Shame in the Kingdom

Sunday @ 6:30pm... Ascribing to the Lord the Honor Due His Name

Monday @ 7:00pm... Honoring God Personally

Tuesday @ 7:00pm...Honoring God in the Family

Wednesday @ 7:00pm... Honoring God in the Local Church

Thursday @ 7:00pm... The Reward of an Honorable Life

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PADEN CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Schedule of Services:
Sunday Bible Study @ 9:30am
Sunday Worship @ 10:15am
Sunday Worship @ 6:30pm
Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:00pm

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from the intellect and take a purely cerebral approach to faith in Jesus. But the resulting faith is weak because obedience to God springs only from a mind that knows. But obedience must also spring from a heart that loves.

So God doesn't simply confront us with evidence on the front of intellectualism but just as convincing and of equal import in our turning to Him is His assault on our heart's emotions. One of the most profound statements in Scripture is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." This is an appeal to our heart. To plumb the depths of God's love for sinners would take an eternity to comprehend with our minds but our hearts can be dominated by it in a moment without fully understanding it. Paul prayed that Christians would be able to "know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:19).

Knowledge influences affection and vice versa (Philippians 1:9). A person cannot be converted to the Lord with purely intellectual arguments any more than he can with purely emotional appeals. In Scripture the two come together to form a spear of love and logic that penetrates both heart and mind (Hebrews 4:12). Until we learn to bridge that gap in our lives our devotion to God will suffer. God wants us to love Him with all our mind and with all our heart (Matthew 22:37).



*"So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."
Come Grow With Us*

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