

***“He is not Here!”***

**Easter 2020**

**Luke 24:1-12**

**Tom Allan of Scotland grew up attending church. He enrolled in divinity studies to become a minister. When WWII began, he enlisted in the Royal Air Force, but because of poor eyesight, he was assigned to military intelligence. Because of what he experienced during the war, Allan became an agnostic.**

**But while attending an Easter service, a black American soldier stood and sang, “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?” This brought Tom Allan to faith in Christ. He said it wasn’t the song or voice, per se, but the spirit in which the soldier sang the song that convicted him of his sin and unbelief. He gave his life to Christ, and after the war, he returned to divinity school, and became a pastor, evangelist, and author. Tom Allan started a radio and television ministry, and was influential in bringing Billy Graham to Scotland for a series of crusades that brought hundreds to faith in Christ. The resurrection of Christ was a main theme in Tom Allan’s preaching and writings, which brought untold numbers of people to Jesus Christ.**

**The resurrection of Jesus was the central theme of the apostle’s preaching. No other religion could boast that their leader or messiah died and came back to life. What makes Christianity unique is the death and resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection has been studied, investigated,**

**and researched for two thousand years, and it still stands up to the legal and journalistic probes. Many who have started out to prove the resurrection of Jesus a hoax became a follower of Jesus in the process.**

**What does the resurrection do for you and me today?**

**How does the resurrection of Jesus affect us now?**

- 1. The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope in this life (24:5-6)**

***“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men. “He is not here, but He has been resurrected!”***

- The resurrection of Jesus proved that He had power over the dominant Roman authorities and the corrupt Jewish leaders. He had power over the devil and his demons, and defeated the powers of darkness. Jesus’ resurrection gave the disciples hope that they could be victorious no matter what the devil or the secular authorities did to them.**
- The women went to the tomb to complete the burial of their Lord. They were concerned about how they would roll away the large stone in front of the tomb’s entrance. However, when they arrived, they saw that the stone was rolled away, so they entered the tomb. Two angels appeared to them and asked why they were looking for the living among the dead. Our hope is not in a dead, martyred Messiah, but a living, victorious Savior.**

- Paul said, *“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life”* (Titus 3:5b-7). Jesus’ resurrection gives us hope in this life, no matter what our circumstances.
- 2. The resurrection of Jesus gives us meaning and purpose (24:6-9)

*“He is not here, but He has been resurrected! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?’ And they remembered His words. Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest.”*

- The women returned to tell the disciples that Jesus was not in the tomb, and that two angels had told them that Jesus was alive. After encountering the resurrected Jesus, the lives of the disciples were radically changed. Their lives had meaning, and they had a purpose in life. Their meaning was being loved by a victorious and living Savior. Their purpose was to tell everyone that Jesus was the Savior of the world, who defeated death and the grave.
- Jesus told His disciples five times that He would be arrested by the authorities, crucified, and resurrected on the third day. The women reminded

them of Jesus’ words. Their life’s work was to tell others about the awesome resurrection of God’s Son, Jesus. If He could defeat death and the grave, He could help with any problem or issue. Nothing would be too difficult for the followers of Jesus.

- Jesus told His followers: *“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere”* (Mark 16:15). Our life should be a light in a dark world. We should always be ready to share our faith—to share what Jesus Christ has done for us. The Apostle Peter said: *“Respect Christ as the holy Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have, but answer in a gentle way and with respect”* (1 Peter 3:15-16). Jesus’ resurrection gives us meaning and purpose in this life, and that meaning and purpose is Jesus living *in* you, and *through* you, as you serve others.

Knowing that our Savior and God is alive, and has defeated death and evil gives us hope in this life. Telling others that Jesus is the living Savior gives us meaning and purpose no matter who we are or what we do. Celebrate your living Savior—*“He is not here, He has been resurrected!”*