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Forerunner Church
The Resurrection of Christ

Good morning. He has risen.

All hail King Jesus. I was just getting touched by the Lord back there singing. This is His day. This is the day we remember Him, His suffering, His resurrection, His victory over sin and death. This is about Him. This is not about bunnies and eggs and pastel colors, and this day is about Him. It's not about preachers or teachers or sermons. And I don't even know what I am talking about this morning except that He got out of the grave. And because He got out of the grave, we will get out of the grave. When He died, we died. When He went down, we went down with Him but death has no sting. And He has the power over sin and death and He took the keys to the grave and beloved, if you are in Christ today, you have hope in Him. You have a future home that pain and suffering of this life, the poverty the oppression, the sickness, the illness, all of it has a day when it will come to an end because He arose from the grave.

You have a hope in Christ. If you find yourself today covered in the blood of Christ and washed in His blood and freed from the chains of sin and bondage, you have a hope and a future in Him.

I love, I love our Lord. You know, you're gonna see Him. He's gonna give you eyes to see Him. You're gonna be with Him. He is as real as the person sitting next to you. He told the disciples, "Come and handle Me. Touch Me. Feel My flesh and bones." He's a real man. He was resurrected as a real man, not just as God, as a man. And He came back, and He lives forever more. The Scripture calls Him the first fruit from the dead and He is the first born of the dead. And just like Him, those are that in Christ will be raised and be bound just like Him.

Beloved, we have a hope and a glorious future in Him. I love it. I love it.

A couple of years ago I was riding with my kids in the car and I was giving them pop quiz, Bible trivia and we were talking about Easter and the ascension and I said, "Who knows what Jesus said after He was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven?" Kind of a pause, and one of the kids in the back, "I know." I go, "Okay, what did He say?" They said, "Oh well, you know, He looked at His disciples and He said, "Take a good look cause you ain't never seeing Me again."

It's pretty bad theology. Thank God for family meetings.

I'm gonna read this from John, chapter 20, the account of the disciples coming to the tomb. John 20, verses 1 to 18. John 20:1-18, "Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran up to to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and she said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." Therefore, Peter went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb and they

both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and He came to the tomb first. And he came stooping down and looking in, and he saw the linen cloths lying there and he did not go in. And then Simon Peter came, following him, and he went into the tomb and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, also went in and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. And the disciples went away again to their own homes.

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels sitting in white, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" And she said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, (she saw Him) she did not know that it was Him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? And whom are you seeking?" But she, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." And Jesus said to her, "Mary!" And she turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and tell them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, (see the resurrection made the Father in heaven Mary's Father. This Woman who was so broken, if you know her story, she was filled with demons and He looks at her and He said "I am going to My Father and now Mary because of the resurrection He's your Father as well) I am going to My God and, Mary, your God.' " (And Forerunner Church, your God. That's where He is, He is with our God.) Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

Now John writes this account and now in verse 31, he says this, "These things are written that you would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And that by believing you would have life in His name. That's the purpose of this account. That's the purpose of the resurrection story. That we would hear the account of these men and women, these individuals, they wrote down their stories for us. Why? So that we too would believe that Jesus is the Christ. He's the savior of the world and He is also the Son of God. The world belongs to Him. Everything that is in it, every man, woman, person, creature, dog, plant, it all belongs to Him. Everything is for Him.

And John in giving us this account, when we read this account, we're not just reading kind of this story that's made up so that we would believe their claims of Jesus. He is presenting evidence. He is telling us something. He is showing us, actually in the details of the story, that even the disciples did not believe when they first saw the empty tomb. They had to go into the tomb. They had to look around. They had to figure out what was going on.

You see, one of the things about Christianity is that people think that to have faith, it means that you've done reason. It means that you don't take time. It means that you just kind of throw it all to the wind and just put your faith completely and entirely in something that is not confirmed and that cannot be seen. When in reality when you need a true and genuine Christian, they will tell you that their reasons for following Christ and the teachings of Christ aren't because they put blind faith in something. It's because they encountered a person. His name is Jesus Christ and

through His Spirit we could know Him and encounter Him and fellowship with Him and talk to Him and relate to Him and He is as real as the person that's sitting next to you. And though you cannot see Him with Your eyes it does not mean that He is not resurrected as a man seated at the right hand of God even now.

And John presents us with evidence. As a matter of fact, the whole of the word of God are evidences and testimonies of men and women throughout history that tell us of the glory and the riches of who God is and what He is truly like. The Bible was not written by one person. It wasn't a person who sat down in some cubical somewhere and decided to write this fanciful tale about a God in heaven and wickedness on the earth and how that God became a man that came down and fixed it all through a cross and now we are going to live with Him forever. Rather, the story of the Bible is a testimony. It is a witness. It is evidence that we must examine. We must listen to these testimonies and we must receive them just as that.

What is John telling us? What is Matthew telling us? What is Luke telling us? What is Moses telling us? The Bible was written by over 30 authors over a period of history that spanned nearly 15 hundred years. And all of them, somehow, seem to write with a Spirit of unity that were lining up the truths of God and who He was and what He was like without contradicting each other. There is no way that you can get 30 people in a room together, even if you paid them a large sum of money, and get them to all agree with one another on every single point. It is impossible. You can't do it in your small group. You can't do it on your leadership team. You can't even, your managers at work, they cannot do it with your co-workers. If they did, they would be making millions of dollars more. But they can't.

The Spirit of unity that is evident through the Bible and the narrative and the story in the Bible is something that we must consider. We must take it into account. We must consider the claims that Christ, said it Himself, that He was the Son of God, that the heavenly Father was His Father therefore making Him equal with God, we must consider those things.

And like I said earlier, if you encounter a true Christian, a born again Christian who is walking with God, they will tell you their most powerful testimony, their most powerful evidence of Christ and His worth and the word of God is that they know Him, that their life is different, that their life has been transformed by God. That even though things haven't gotten easier, even though there is pain and struggle and strife and suffering that they endure, they know that God is near to them. He is a person to them and their hope has been fully staked upon that person knowing that one day He will raise them from the dead, that their tomb will open, their suffering will stop and that they will always be with the Lord forever and ever and ever. Hallelujah.

So, in John 20, verse 6, it tells us that Peter went into the tomb, and he begins to look around and that word that he says, right here where it says, "He saw." He began to examine the evidence. He's one of Jesus' closest followers. He has so much to lose if he's wrong. And he doesn't just immediately believe with blind faith. He goes into the tomb and it says that he began to see, he began to look around. What are the things that they were seeing? The stone was rolled away. The linen clothes were set aside. The handkerchief over Christ's face was folded up and he began to look at these things and that word there for 'he saw,' verse 6 is actually the word where we get our word for 'theorize' to examine, to behold with understanding. It's not blind faith. He

didn't go into the tomb with tambourines and start dancing around. "Hallelujah, He's resurrected." They were as confused as anyone else. Is this real? Has he really come back from the dead? And you can imagine Peter peeking into that tomb and looking around and being like, "What is going on?" He's taking inventory. He's examining all the evidences that are there.

And John begins to tell them, or begins to tell us, though this chapter, those evidences so that we would examine those evidences, that we would actually apply our minds to our faith and say, "Could this be real? Are you really the resurrected God of glory, fully God, fully man?"

The story that was being claimed against them later was that the disciples had come at night and stolen the body. That was the claim that the religious leaders, the Pharisees, began to spread all through Jerusalem, was that they came in and they stole His body.

Now let's look at some of the evidence that John gives us. Let's examine some of these things and consider the claim that Christ's body had been stolen.

Number one, the handkerchief that was over Christ's face was neatly folded and set to the side. Now, your spouse can't even get their clothing into the hamper. Your spouse, of course it's your spouse, it's never you, it's your roommate, it's your sibling, it's whatever, there are clothes everywhere and it's like here's the hamper and it's barely touching the hamper much less folded neatly somewhere. You're telling me that thieves came into a tomb at night and in all the hub-bub of stealing a dead body, who had been marred and maimed, they said, "Hold up, let's fold this. Let's fold the handkerchief that was over His face. We got to leave this tidy. I mean, we are robbers but we got to leave this tomb looking nice." So, they fold up the handkerchief and they set it aside.

Number two, the linens and the spices that were brought were still there. They were still in the tomb. Now, we know from John 19, the previous chapter, a wealthy man named Joseph from Arimathea comes with Nicodemus who had had an encounter with the Lord, even back in John chapter 3. And he comes and he asks Pilot for the body of Jesus and they purchase a hundred pounds of Aloes and spices and Myrrh and all of this fragrance for the body. A hundred pounds of all of these spices would have been incredible valuable, a dead body withstanding. If you're a robber, you open up a tomb and there's 100 pounds of spices in that tomb you are for sure taking those with you. Further, why would you unwrap a body that had been scared, mutilated beaten, tortured and crucified, why would you want to take Him out, that body out of those linen clothes and pick it up and run away? That's gross.

I mean, I want to be, you know, honoring, but we are talking about a dead body. The Scripture tells us that He was marred beyond any other man. You could not even recognize who He was. I mean if you even research what happens through the scourging that He endured and the crucifixion, His body is ripped to shreds. Why would a robber, or anybody take Him out of those linen clothes, pick up that body and run out into the night with this, scurry away? This is just bizarre and I don't think that he did. And that's why I think that John is highlighting these different evidences. He is saying the handkerchief was folded up. The linens and the aloes and the spices, they were all there but actually the kicker is, is that in every gospel account, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, in every Gospel account the first eye-witness of the Christ was Mary

Magdalene and the women. Now that might not strike you as evidence but here is why it actually is, because in that day, in that culture, in society, it was very patriarchal. The value of women and the word of women would have been esteemed very, very low, almost insignificant. If a woman said something and a man did not corroborate that statement it was almost immediately thrown out. Why would we listen to her? Why would we whatever? And that was the state of the culture and the society of that day was that the word of women and the testimony of women was incredibly low.

Now if you were constructing, if you were writing a story, a fabrication and you were gonna lie to a whole bunch of people in that day, the absolute last thing that you would do is say, "And the first eye witness of the risen Lord is a bunch of women." Because everyone would have laughed at you. Everyone would have scoffed at you. And yet, it is one of the details that every single gospel account brings forward. It's evidence, it shows us that this story was not invented by men and the wisdom of men. It was written by God. It truly happened in the way that it was described.

Further, these guys that are writing these gospel accounts, they all are depicted as fearful cowards. Now what was the last time you wrote a story about yourself and decided that in the story you were going to depict yourself as a bunch of babies running away, fearful, and just fleeing off into the night? The Gospel of Mark account tells us that when they come to arrest Jesus somebody grabs a young man (it's probably Mark) they grab a young man. They go, "Hey who are you?" And he runs away and his cloak rips off and he's buck naked fleeing into the night. Why would that story be in there? If you were making up a story about Christ and His validity and who he really is, why would you write in there, "I was the naked fearful guy that ran off willy-nilly into the garden that night." You would leave those stories out for sure. Why would you put into the story that you denied the Christ? Why would you put into the story over and over and over again that you were afraid, and you locked yourself up in the room?

You know, after the resurrection, it says several times that they were all locked into a room. The door was shut because they were all afraid of the Jews. If that were really true, that they had made up this story, they would not have been fearful with a whole bunch of doors locked up. They would be out everywhere telling everybody, "Yeah, I saw Jesus. Yeah it was awesome. It was great."

But they are actually depicted as all these fearful cowards. No one writes stories about themselves like that. How could they possibly do that?

And so, what John is highlighting here, he is going, "Would you read the evidences? When you read the gospel accounts of the resurrection, I don't want you to just jump to conclusion. I want you to pause. I want you to consider. Consider the claims that are being made here. Test them, try them."

You know there is a famous quote. I'm gonna paraphrase it. The famous quote that says, "True Christianity hasn't been tried and found wanting. It's been left untried." And the fact remains that most people, as they look in from the outside of the Christian faith they are going, "You know what? That just isn't for me." But they never actually engage with the truths of God's word.

My testimony and the testimony of many believers is this: I find that when I obey the commands of the Lord, when I take it seriously, my life comes into order in so many ways. It's not that my life gets easier. It means that it comes into order. I don't experience sorrow and depression and a sense of hopelessness and all that because I have hope in Christ. I know that God will vindicate me, and you know that God will vindicate you. He will make all things right. There is a day coming where all sin and all pain and all sickness, these things will cease, and you will be raised from the dead and be with God in beauty and glory and paradise forever and ever and ever. I follow Christ because the light and the joy and the assurance of my salvation that I walk in gives me boldness and confidence to not avoid trouble and not avoid suffering but to actually walk through it. And many believers throughout the earth that are under persecution that are under suffering, they too have the testimony that because of Christ I endure, because of Christ I am willing to suffer, because of Christ I am willing to undergo torture and persecution and betrayal. I hold on to Him because He is as real that man that got up out of the grave, because He is that man that got up out of the grave.

He is that real to them. He is that near to them. My first challenge this morning would be: is God that real to you? Is He that near to you that if everything were taken away, if every convenience of life, if every comfort of life and every relationship, if every financial asset you have were removed, would Christ be enough? Because for many believers across the earth, many Christians, those things are taken away, they find themselves in prison, they find themselves losing jobs and relationships and betrayal. And the pain of betrayal that they are undergoing, this is a present reality. Beloved we got it real easy in Kansas City, Missouri. I mean really easy.

My father was just this weekend ministering in Russia and Siberia and on the state TV, you know, on their news things, you can't talk about two things. You can't talk about the gospel of Jesus Christ and you can't talk about the day of the Lord. It's two laws that they have and if you break those laws then you get in trouble with the government and the agencies that are there. Beloved we have it so easy, we can gather together in peace, get our hair done, go over there, take some nice pictures, have a nice service, worship with some nice music, go home and eat some grilled lamb and then go to bed. And everything is just hunky-dory. Right?

But the truth is that there are those who are suffering for Christ. And in their suffering, it gives us a witness that they are living for something more than a lie. They are living for something more than a fabrication. God is real to them. God is near to them. And God is near to many of those that are gathered here with us this morning.

The Christian faith hinges upon the resurrection of Christ. The cross is only the cross and the resurrection is what completes the divine narrative of God for our salvation. The cross is a man that is suffering, He is bearing the weight of God. But beloved the story does not end there. There's a resurrection that's coming. It shows us that through all suffering, through all trial, through all pain, through all torment, that there is a hope that we fully entrust ourselves to. Many of us experience suffering, we experience loss, we experience the passing of a loved one. We experience tragedy in our lives and emotional turmoil and conflict and pain and all of this and we need something more than a motivational speech. We need something more than five

laws to get your finances in order. We need something more than making ourselves feel better and having a little bit more self-esteem. See, all these things you can find without a cross. But I want to tell you something. That there is a greater enemy, there is a greater threat to who you are and who I am and it's this: It's the power of sin and death. Who can escape it? Who can escape the grave? Who can escape the power of the grave when it opens its mouth it swallows everyone? It doesn't matter what social status you are. It doesn't matter what religion you are. It doesn't matter where you live on the earth. It doesn't matter how smart you are. It does not matter. It swallows everyone, the philosopher, the agnostic, the atheist, the pastor, the teacher, the mom, the dad.

A hundred years ago, the so called, wise men and women of the world that had figured it all out, they had all succumbed to the power of death. Death awaits you, and you don't know when it's gonna be. You don't know if it's going to be 5 minutes from now or five years from now, when you walk out of this room today or even before that. You don't know. Your future is not held within your power. You would like it to be, and I would like it to be. We would like to have control and hold our futures. But I want to tell you that death is coming. Beloved, what will save you from the power of death? Five steps to financial planning, a better marriage, kids that get better grades in school, a nicer house? What does it matter if you can't overcome death? The rich man, he dies with his riches. The wise man, he dies with his wisdom. The philosopher, he dies with his philosophy. Every man and woman dies. And the question is: What is going to save you from the sting of death? What is going to deliver you from the power of the grave?

There are all these different options out there in the earth about getting better, how to be better, how to be more motivated, how to be more driven, how to feel more alive, get more joy in your life. Dat da da da da da. But none of them can overcome death. None of them can deliver you from death. None of them. And this reality is bearing down upon us day after day, we nearer that day where we pass through that veil and what awaits us on the other side of that veil.

I think that Jesus Christ awaits us on the other side of that veil. And here's why. In the book of John, the Christ tells us that the Father has given Him all things and that all judgment has been committed to Him. Because He's suffered as a righteous man, doing nothing wrong and He bore the weight of sin and He was crushed on the cross and He overcame death, He has been given authority. He has been given all the kingdoms and the powers of the earth forever.

Daniel 7, verse 13 says this, that the Son of Man comes with the clouds of heaven and He came to the Ancient of Days (that's the Father) and they brought Him near before Him and given to Him was dominion and glory and a kingdom that all the peoples and all the nations of the earth would serve Him because He has overcome. The Father has ordained. He said, "I am going to give everything that exists to My Son. I want to draw all people to myself. I want everyone to come and drink deeply of the well of My love and goodness and power and glory forever." But there remains this enemy, sin and death. It bears down upon humanity and there is no one who can escape it. There is no person who has gone their whole life without lying or cheating or stealing or fornicating or lusting or whatever it is. There is no person that can escape the righteous requirement of the law and the ways of God. There is no person who can do it. So therefore, He came. He came for us. He came to us. He wraps His arms around all those dominions and peoples and He says, "You are mine. I will go. I will suffer your sins. I will

suffer your death. I will die the death that you should have died. I will live the life on earth perfect that you should have led. Come to me." And he beckons everyone. "Come to me." He beckons all that would come.

He says in Isaiah 55, "You who are thirsty, you who need something, you are longing for something on the inside." He says, "Come to me. I will give you rest." And only in Him do we have peace with God and satisfaction and delight and He says, "I have overcome death."

He is the only one. He's the only man or woman, the only person that has ever overcome death. When He went down to the grave after suffering upon the cross, it says in Ephesians 4, that he descended into hell. He descended into the lower parts of the earth and He walked up (now I'm making up this part) He walked up to the gates of hell and formally where He would have been ushered in, He says, "I will take from you the keys and the authority you have over this region. I'm taking them from you. No longer does sin send people here to be tormented but My blood will pay the way for people to get out of the place the torment and the grave forever." And so, He walks up to that reaper and He says, "I'll take those keys, thank you very much."

No longer, no longer, are you bound to sin and death but through belief in Christ, through faith in Him, His blood, frees you from the grave. When you go down in death you will not stay there. You will not dwell there. You will not sleep there for all of eternity, you will rise with Christ of that final day when His voice is heard throughout the nations of the earth.

Christ says in John chapter 5 that there is a day coming when the dead will hear the voice of the son of God and those that will hear it will live. There's two parts to death, one is that if you are not covered in the blood of Jesus now, you do not know Him as your Lord and Savior, you are dead. Your spirit is dead within you. You have no hope. You have no future. The grave is coming, and nothing can deliver it from you. There is no way out to escaping the grave and the pain and the anguish that will follow, there is nothing that can cause you to escape it. There is no way out. There is no way out. And Christ says, "Those that are in Me, those that believe upon My name, those that receive the free gift of righteousness and the sacrifice of the cross," He goes, "If you are found in Me, there is a day coming that you will hear My voice and you will live."

We will come with the body like Christ came. If you want to read a cool thing, read John 20 and 21 and the way that Jesus interacted with the realm of the physical even after He is raised from the dead. Do you know that even after He was raised from the dead He didn't just immediately go to heaven with His Father? Acts chapter 1 tells us that He spend 40 days, 40 days, that's a long time, He spent 40 days on the earth teaching the disciples, fellowshiping with them, eating with them. Beloved, they were beyond convinced He is back. He is back from the grave. Death cannot hold Him. We will follow Him to the very end.

Beloved, they went out from that encounter with Him and they turned the world upside down. We're sitting as fruit of their conviction that Christ was raised from the dead. We are sitting in this room today on the other side of the world that a whole bunch of young men and women went out as witnesses and they said, "We will tell the world that You have been raised from the dead."

1st Corinthians 15, at the ascension there were over 500 people that were gathered there, all eye-witnesses. They saw Him ascend from the mount and go up and be seated at the right hand of the Father. They saw Him lift up His body. They are all staring at the clouds. Why? Because they were confused. He wasn't an apparition, He wasn't a spirit, He was a man. And they were standing there staring at the clouds going, "Is He coming back down? How does this work?" And they were standing there for so long that the angels have to interrupt them and go, "Why are you gazing into heaven?" And they are like, "Because a dude just went up. That's never happened. What's going on? How did he do that?" That's how real He was to them.

They are marveling and they are shocked now because He has all this power and He's like in and out of the rooms and running around like this flame or something. They are going, "He is so real, He was with us for so long, He was eating our food, He was walking through walls, He was showing up in our midst and going, "Hey come and feel the nails in my hands. Come feel the scar, put your finger through the scar in my hand. Come put your hand up into the wound in my side. It's still there because I am a man."

And they are baffled by this and they go, "He is so real to us. We will go as witnesses to the very ends of the earth." And we sit here today, two thousand years later because a bunch of people were convinced of the resurrection. If they hadn't been, if it was not real, the Christian faith would have been stamped out a long time ago.

There's no way you endured Nero and the Roman Empire of the first century, there is no way you endure that for a lie and that you just perpetuate this whole kind of fanciful idea about Christ. He is a real man. He is a real God and He has been given all judgment and all authority. There is something in our heart that wishes that He wasn't a man. There is something in our heart that wishes He was this disconnected angry God. There is something that, in our minds, wishes that he was just Zeus with lightning bolts and power and authority. If you were up there, then I could just blame everyone around me, and I could blame my circumstances for why I didn't do so great down here. I could just blame Him. I could accuse Him. I could just say, "Well, I didn't really know You. There were so many mixed reviews about who You were and what You were like. I'm not really sure."

So, in the human heart, there is something that longs that God would not be a man, that He wouldn't have walked where we walked, that He wouldn't have taken on flesh and experienced humility and experienced pain and grief and suffering but now He has. God set aside His glory. He became a man. He walked where we walked. He knew our thoughts. He knew how people interacted. He saw all of it from the inside out. What God is there that is like that? And when He ascended, He ascended as a man and when He returns, beloved, He is coming to earth again as a man. That trumpet will sound. His voice will shout. The dead in Christ will be raised with glory going, "What just happened?" And we will forever be with the Lord.

All who have been raised with Him will experience the power of resurrection. John 5, verse 28 says, "John 5:28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves (all who are in the graves) will hear His voice and come forth--" This is to me one of the most terrifying passages in the Bible. Because He says, "When My voice shouts and resounds

it's not just the righteous who will be raised but the unrighteous will come in the resurrection of condemnation. And the righteous will experience My glory and My power forever, the supernatural realm and the physical realm and the delight and the pleasure and satisfaction and joy." And He goes, "The unrighteous, they will be resurrected too. And they will be resurrected to experience the anguish and the terror and the wrath of God that endures forever and ever and ever. They will not escape it. They will not be an unconscious soul floating around in Hades, down in Sheol." He says, "They will be resurrected."

There is a resurrection of condemnation that is coming for the wicked. Beloved, I want to urge you to search your heart. I want to urge you to find those areas of sin and compromise in your own life and repent of them and get people into the fight and say, "I am not walking with Christ. I'm not walking with Him in obedience. My heart is filled with mixture. I love other things." And invite the power and the presence of God into your life and fully surrender your heart to Him so that you will not experience that resurrection of condemnation in that day.

Paul tells us it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. The fear of the Lord, the fear of the Lord, it's the love of God, but it's the fear of God. We live in tension between both of them. He is the God that loves us and rejoices over us and He is the God of terrible wonder and holiness and fire and power. And we have to come to Him on His terms. I'm not just making an appeal for those who have not known Christ and have never walked with Him. I'm talking about those that come here week after week after week. Is your life fully surrendered to Him? Will you be with Him in the resurrection of the righteous? Will you stand with Him? Are there areas in your heart that are un-forgiven, you haven't given Him full lordship over your life, you haven't fully surrendered to Him, you haven't received that free gift of righteousness and been washed in the blood of Jesus?

Oh, the Lord is so good. I want to invite the worship team to come back out there.

John 3:16. Beloved let me read John 6, verse 40 first. "If anyone sees the Son and believes in Him, they will have everlasting life." They see the testimony; they see the witness. When you become a Christian, you can know Christ in a very personal way. John tells us that those that believe in Him will have every lasting life and He will raise them up in the last day. John 3:16 says that God loved the world so He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him, whoever believes His words, that He is true, that He is right, that He is resurrected, that He is the God of heaven with all judgment and power having been given to Him. He says, "He will experience eternal life. He will be with Christ forever."

Here's my question: Have you repented of all your dead works? Have you given them all to Christ? Have you searched your heart in light of the scriptures and in light of this Man that will come again, whose voice will echo out over the oceans and the peoples and the land on the day of the Lord? He will shout. Have you surrendered? Have you given up every area and every profane thing that does not please the Lord or bring Him glory? I want to exhort you in something. The deepest satisfaction that the human being can have is when they are in full agreement with the Christ, full agreement. When you are in full agreement with the Christ, your life is filled with satisfaction and delight. It may not make you more wealthy, it may not give you a better car, it may not do a bunch of things but one thing is true, your heart will be satisfied

with the beauty of the Lord, with the knowledge of God. It will transform you. It will touch you.

And that is my exhortation to us this morning. Will you surrender to Him? Will you give your life to Him?

Some of you are sitting there thinking, "Well, this is a nice message, but I have been in church for 15, 20 years. I gave my life to Christ way back in the day. I am faithful. Amen brother, tell them. Tell all those other people what they need to hear." That is the stance of so many Christians in our day, "Tell them what they need to hear, they need to have their sins forgiven. I'm good." And yet, there are still areas of mixture and compromise and sin and hidden sin and addiction and all of these things that are eating at the heart. Beloved the wages of sin is death. The Scripture tells us that. Sin, all sin, big or small, all sin leads to death.

Let's stand.