

“WHY BELIEVE” Week 42

“Is That Your Final Answer?” (John 20)

April 23, 2000 • Easter Sunday, 9 AM • Dr. Jack Graham, Pastor PBC

“Resurrection Praise!” “Christ The Lord is Risen Today!” “Celebrate Jesus, Celebrate” Hallelujah, Jesus Is Alive!”

Prayer: Dr. Jack Graham

Baptism: Steve Smith

Welcome: “My Life Is In You Lord” “Easter Song” “Knowing You”

Prayer: Mark Gardner

Music Praise: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” Sherri Hill, solo
Job said it centuries ago: [Job 19:25]

25 *For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand [again upon] at last on the earth;*

Our Savior is alive. I love the story of the little boy who was picking out some puppies. He was picking and choosing between the puppies and they ask him which one he wanted. One of them in particular was wagging his tail, just wagging and wagging his tail. The little boy pointed at that one and said, I want the one with the happy ending. [laughter]

When Jesus died on the cross on that dark Friday, they put Him in a tomb, it looked like the end and people wondered, God is that Your final answer? Is this what it's all about? Your Savior dead on a cross, buried in a borrowed tomb, is this it? People are wondering today what about live. If a man dies, the scripture says, shall he live again. As much as we may want to ignore the subject we all know that one day we are going to stand before God in eternity. We're on to eternity. We're in a dying land and we die day by day. All of us baby boomers are beginning to feel our age. We had a theme song years ago, *Forever Young*. But, we know that's a lie. We're not forever young. We're all closer to sixty than we are the sixties out of our generation. We want to know when we face death; when we face the end; will it be a happy ending? Will we live again? Because Jesus Christ lives, the Bible says we shall live also. Those of us who know Him and affirm the reality of Jesus Christ in our lives, we will indeed live again in His presence. As a matter a fact, everyone will live in eternity. Either separated from God forever or in the presence of Jesus Christ forever. The fact of the resurrection was confirmed by personal appearances of Jesus Christ. It's not my purpose here today to discuss the evidence for the resurrection. There's a great deal of evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

My friends Hank Hanagrafe and Josh McDowell have given us wonderful studies concerning the evidence that demands a verdict and the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. But, you know, today on this Easter Sunday morning it is not my purpose to defend the resurrection, but simply to declare the resurrection, to declare that Jesus Christ is alive. The cross left the followers of Christ frightened and disappointed. But, something truly amazing happened that changed everything. The same disciples that were living in fear, defeat and despair were transformed into flaming witnesses for a risen Christ. What changed them? They were absolutely convinced, having met the risen Lord that Jesus Christ was alive. Now I must remind you that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very cornerstone of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection we have no faith. Without the message that we share today there is no other message. It is the message of good news, that Christ died for our sins according to the scripture, that He was buried and on the third day He arose. He rose, according to the scripture. Just as Jesus met with the disciples in His risen state centuries ago, we can be sure that the risen Christ, His presence is here today. Not in the same way that He appeared to His disciples, but in the same power. Because we can know the power of the resurrection. Today it is my prayer that you will encounter, perhaps for the first time, the risen Christ. If you already know Jesus as your Lord and Savior that this will be a fresh encounter and the rekindling of your faith. For some of you who may need to come home to Christ this Easter that this will be a renewal of your love for Jesus Christ and your commitment to follow Him with all your heart.

Take God's Word and turn with me to the Gospel of John 20. I want to encourage you to take a Bible and open the scripture, because what we're going to do is to study John 20 together. In these resurrection appearances of Jesus Christ we will see for ourselves the reality of the resurrection and answer that question. Is that your final answer?

- 1 *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.*
- 2 *Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him."*
- 3 *Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb.*
- 4 *So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first,*
- 5 *And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.*
- 6 *Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there,*
- 7 *and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.*
- 8 *Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.*
- 9 *For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.*
- 10 *Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.*

The disciples were living in defeat and despair. Peter had denied the Lord. He did what he promised himself and the Lord he would never do. He said three times, I don't even know Him. By now Simon Peter having wept his eyes out with tears is broken and wondering what's next. Then there's John who stayed at the foot of the cross and indeed accepted the mother of the Lord Jesus as his own mother and is caring for her by now. Somehow they are together, Peter and John. You wonder how they got together. The other disciples were in hiding. They had fled from the scene of the crucifixion. We don't know where they were, but we know that Peter and John were together on the first day, resurrection morning. We're not told how or why they got together. But I have an idea.

Somehow John encountered Simon Peter. Maybe he ran into him on the streets.

But, I presume that he went and got him. John who was faithful, went and found this unfaithful brother. He said Simon Peter we know that you blew it, that you denied the Lord, but we need each other, we need fellowship. I don't understand what's happened here. I don't know why Jesus is dead and I don't know if that's it, if that's the final answer or not, but come on over to my house and let's be together.

It's a beautiful picture isn't it? The love of friends. The love of brothers who rally together in time of desperate need. Though Simon Peter had fallen and failed the Lord; this other follower of Jesus, John, he took Simon in. It may be that you feel that you've failed the Lord and broken God's commandments. You wonder, will the church of Jesus Christ accept me? Will I be welcome there? I pray that you will sense the welcome in this place. I pray that some Christian has encouraged you, for the Bible says that we are to restore fallen and broken brothers and sisters in Christ. Though John could have never known just how much this impact would ultimately have upon the future of the Christian faith and the church in bringing Simon Peter in, he brought him in. They got together in some way and when the news came that the tomb was empty they went running together to see if it was true.

Now Mary Magdalene along with other women went to the tomb earlier. We're told in other gospel accounts that other women also were there. Apparently Mary Magdalene went on ahead. She discovered, to her dismay

Is That Your Final Answer?

that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. Seeing that frightful sight, the tomb open and the body of Jesus gone, she went running to find Peter and John. She reported to them. They decided let's go see for ourselves early that Sunday morning, that first Easter morning. As they began running, the scripture says in John 10:4 that:

4 ... *the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first,*

You see if you're the writer of the gospel you can include stuff like that. Simon Peter was a full back and he was pretty good in a 50 yard sprint. But, he's huffing and puffing and John just sprints right by him. I can only imagine as John is penning this story under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit years and years later. By now he's an old man as he's writing these words. He can barely walk much less run. But with a gleam in his eye a smile crosses his face and he remembers when he outran his brother, Simon Peter, to the tomb; not his physical brother, but his spiritual brother; he got there first. He was on the scene and he looked in. He didn't go in the tomb. Was he afraid? We don't know. But, when Simon Peter got there in John 20:6 he went bursting right in. Are you surprised?

6 ... *and he saw the linen cloths lying there,*

A different word is used in John 20:6 as compared to John 20:5 as John looked in:

5 *And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in.*

It just means he looked, he saw that the tomb was empty. But when Simon Peter walks in he looks around and the word that is used in the New Testament is a word which means he looked with careful investigation. He's looking all around here and he sees, indeed, the body of Jesus is gone. But, the grave cloths are still there and they are in order. Again, in the language of the New Testament a word is used which described the ordering of legal documents. Everything was in order. This wasn't a tomb that had been ransacked by thieves or robbers that had taken the body. Rather, those cloths were laying there. Remember in the ancient world when they would bury bodies they would wrap them like mummies, just wrap these cloths all around. Then there would be a separate cloth for the head that would also be wrapped around like a turbine. The scripture is clear on this, that the cloths are lying there in order and the face cloth is lying folded in a separate place. What's happened here? Where's the body of Jesus? Now remember they don't suspect, at this point, a resurrection. They're just assuming that someone has taken the body.

Mary Magdalene assumed that someone had stolen the body of Jesus. This is one of the explanations that skeptics offer for the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the stolen body theory. Others have mentioned swoon theories. You know the swoon theories? That Jesus really didn't die on the cross, but He simply just faded and passed away. Now don't mention the fact that a spear was thrust into His heart and He's been beaten 39 times with a cat of nine tails and He's lost all of His blood. They didn't even break His legs because Roman soldiers who knew death realized that Jesus was already dead. They didn't hasten His death by breaking His legs so that He would no longer be able to catch breath as He gasped for air. Forget all of that. But just assume then that Jesus was taken down off the cross in a faded state and then He's wrapped with all of this cloth, these burial cloths, a hundred pounds of spices according to John 19:39 is wrapped there with Him. He's laid in a tomb. The stone is rolled away and apparently what happened, according to the Passover plot and other theories of like mind is that in the coolness of the tomb Jesus recessitated, He revived. He was able to remove those grave cloths and roll away the stone which would have weighed at least a ton and then staggered outside, appear to His disciples and claim a resurrection. You've got to have a lot more faith to believe that then what the Bible says about the resurrection. The reason that you can look at the evidence as Peter and John looked at the evidence and assume the resurrection, the evidence is palatable and clear that this isn't the job of a grave robber. This isn't something that happened in the darkness. Rather everything is still in order. Everything is together. Everything is lying there carefully just as it was when Christ was placed in the tomb. What happened? It's obvious, isn't it? Jesus supernaturally evaporated through those cloths. These cloths were still there, just as though the body was there and the face cloth neatly folded. The scripture says in John 20:8;

8 *Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.*

This time a third word for seeing is used. He saw, which means he saw with understanding and recognition. He saw and believed. This is the first attempt of a believer after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Someone believing
Is That Your Final Answer?

in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, it was John the one self described as the disciple whom Jesus loved. Not bragging on himself, but rather bragging on Jesus because he said, you know, He loved me. Jesus Christ loved me not that I was His favorite, but He loved me. He just simply described himself as a man that Jesus loved. So this man that Jesus loved looked, he saw and he believed. He believed what? In the resurrection, at that very moment, though he had not yet seen Jesus he saw the evidence and he trusted in Jesus Christ. Now it's not wrong to ask for evidence when it comes to our faith. This is not a ship of fools that we're sailing on into eternity. God doesn't ask you to just close your eyes and believe in something down deep in your heart you don't think is true. The other side of that is will you be honest enough to look as Peter and John looked at the evidence, at the empty tomb, at the grave cloths, at the missing body of Jesus. The resurrection appearances of Jesus not only to His disciples but we're told elsewhere in the New Testament that He appeared to 500 people at one time. These were not hallucinating. Some have suggested that this was all a mass hysteria, that it was hallucination. Remember these disciples weren't expecting a resurrection. They weren't looking for a resurrection. They weren't hallucinating when they saw Jesus. Are you willing to look at the evidence and examine it for yourself and make up your mind whether or not Jesus is Lord, whether He's alive or not?

Sometimes you share Christ with people and they say, well I don't believe the Bible. You don't believe the Bible? No, I don't believe the Bible. Have you read the Bible? No I've never read the Bible, but I still don't believe it. Why don't you believe the Bible? There are too many contradictions in the Bible. Oh yeah, show me some of those contradictions. By now veins are popping out of their neck. I don't know where they are but somebody told me there are contradictions in the Bible. Now let me get this right. You've never read the Bible but somebody told you that there are contradictions in the Bible. You don't know where they are, but somebody told you. Yeah, yeah I don't believe the Bible. You just wonder why people can't think for themselves and look intently and carefully at the evidence themselves and determine whether they believe or not. Don't let other people think for you when it comes to the Bible. Read the Bible. Ask God if it's true. Open up your heart. I'm not saying that when you come to Jesus Christ every question will be gone. The fact is the difficulties may be hard for some. But, I tell you this, the liabilities are much greater than any of the difficulties that people have in believing. The liabilities of not believing are far greater than those of believing. Peter and John they looked and they believed. You know what happened? Their defeat and discouragement was turned to victory. Everything is changed. Look at John 20:19;

19 *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews,*

By now the disciples had spread the word that Jesus was alive. They didn't know for sure so they were gathered for fear of the Jews. Maybe they figured they would get blamed for the stolen body, the supposed stolen body of Jesus. They were fearful and locked in a room.

19 *... Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace [Shalom] be with you."*

Now I got to tell you, if I had been Jesus, when I walked into that room and here are these guys who didn't stand at the cross save one, they ran like rats out of a room when the heat was on; I got to believe when I walked into that room I'm gonna say, where were you guys? What happened to you when I needed you? I think a stern rebuke and a good kick in the backside might have done them good. But, you know what Jesus did? None of that. Aren't you glad I'm not Jesus? [laughter] None of that. He lifted up nail scared hands and said, "*Peace be with you.*" He found them in their defeat, their discouragement, their brokenness, their pain and their failure and He extended His love and His grace and His peace. That's what the risen Christ does. Because of His cross, He died on the cross for your sins and the resurrection now validates the power of the cross. He comes to us behind closed doors when we're locked in and locked up and our lives have failed. Maybe you've faced moral failure, marital failure, financial failure and you wonder does God love me? Does God care? Jesus walks in with love and grace and peace and offers a renewal of faith. That's what happened here in John 20:20.

20 *When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.*

That has to be the understatement of the Bible. That room must have exploded with joy, high fives all around. Jesus is alive. In John 20:21 He said:

21 *... "... As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

Just like that, because of the resurrection, defeat is turned to victory. Those disciples would never, ever be the same.

Let's back up for just a moment and look at John 20:11-14, because not only do we see defeat turned to victory, but we see sorrow turned to joy. After Peter and John get the news and they run on after Mary had alerted them, real gentlemen here, they go ahead and leave. She comes to the garden and they're no longer anywhere to be found. This is Mary Magdalene:

- 11 *But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb.*
- 12 *And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.*
- 13 *Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."*
- 14 *Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.*

I wonder why? How could she had not known? Well, several explanations we can offer. One it's very early in the morning, it's that gray dawn. Perhaps Jesus was standing in the shadows. She presumed He was the gardener. Never even paid any attention. It could be that Jesus in His resurrection body looked different than He had appeared before. When He walked with those disciples along the road to Emmaus that Easter afternoon they didn't recognize Him either. Perhaps the explanation is even more simple than that. Mary is weeping profusely. She had been gloriously delivered by Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that she had a sordid past and she was possessed by seven demon spirits until she met Jesus Christ. Jesus spoke and in the power of His name delivered her from these demons. She was set free by the grace and the love and the power of Jesus Christ. She loved Him deeply. So when the events of that weekend, the death on the cross and now this the tomb is empty, the stone rolled away, the body of Jesus is gone she can't even express her love and devotion to Him by bringing these ointments and spices. Somehow in that moment she just cracked. She broke apart and the deep springs and wells of emotion just overcame her and she's weeping. I believe, due to the tears in her eyes she didn't recognize who was standing there outside the garden tomb. In John 20:15;

- 15 *Jesus said to her, "Woman why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" 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."*

That's an amazing statement. Mary all 110 or 115 pounds of her is saying just show me where you've taken His body, I'll take Him away. Now, I don't know how much Jesus weighed, 150, 160 or 170 pounds. As we mentioned before all these ointments and spices had been buried with Christ in those grave cloths so 250 or 300 pounds there together. Mary didn't know how, but in her desperation she said just show me where He is and I'll take His body. How did she think she was going to carry the body of Jesus? The question is, Mary why are you weeping? Mary must have been wondering, God is this Your final answer? Is Jesus dead? Is He gone? Is our hope and our faith destroyed? God, is this Your final answer? Look at John 20:16;

- 16 *Jesus said to her, "Mary!"*

When He called her name, though she had not previously recognized Him, when He said her name she immediately knew it was Jesus.

- 16 *... She turned and said to Him, [Master] "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).*

She was in the presence of Jesus Christ. Isn't it amazing, think about it, the first person to see the risen Christ, now John had already believed in the resurrection but he hadn't yet seen the risen Christ, the first person to see, believe and receive the risen Christ was Mary of Magdalene a woman of not so good reputation. The very fact that she was a woman was a shock in the ancient world. Women were considered second class citizens. Jesus appeared to this woman first.

Now again, had I been Jesus, I would have been in for retaliation. I think I would have gone first to Caiaphas the high priest and say, Cyephus, remember me I'm back. Or Pontius Pilate, what about him? I would have gone straight to Pontius Pilate and said, you can't wash your hands of me. No Jesus didn't go to political leaders or priests. He wasn't out there looking for vengeance. He appeared to humble followers; Mary of Magdalene who had been devotedly committed to Him. Mary fell at His feet and began holding on to His legs, His ankles, His knees. She got a vise like grip on Him. In John 20:17 He says to her:

17 *Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "*

She's holding on to Him for dear life. She's never going to let Him go. Jesus said, Mary, Mary, Mary don't cling to me like this. We're going to have a new kind of relationship. It's not going to be based upon physical touch, seeing me, touching me. I'm going to ascend to My Father and when I ascend to My Father, My Spirit He promised would come. I'm going to have a new relationship with people not something that they can see or touch but something that is just as real and just as powerful. So, don't cling to Me, don't hold on to Me like this, but you go tell my disciples that I'm alive. Some people want only feelings. If they could somehow touch or feel or sense; that's so often just unbelief looking for proof. We don't have the privilege of seeing Jesus in that way, but we have a privilege of a new relationship, this vital living relationship with Jesus Christ. I believe He said this to Mary so that we could understand it. It's not a matter of clinging to His physical presence but rather clinging to His spiritual life that we could know Him by faith and experience His salvation personally. He spoke in John 20:17 of:

17 ... "... ' My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

Now Jesus has made it possible for us to know God as Father and to experience His love everyday of our life; Easter everyday of our lives. That's good news, that we could know Jesus like this. What happens here is the sorrow is turned to joy. The question that Mary is asked, why are you weeping? It is a question the world is asking because the world is weeping. Why is there so much pain? Why is there so much suffering? Why the tragedy? Why the heartache? God, is this Your final answer, is life just a senseless experience of pain and ultimately death? But, because of the risen Lord, we say no, that's not God's final answer. His answer is seeing the empty tomb and the living presence of Jesus in our lives who turns our sorrow into joy, our pain into praise and every hurt into a hallelujah. For every dark Friday there's the glorious sunrise of Easter for the child of God.

Because of the risen Christ we can know victory in the midst of defeat, we can know joy in the midst of sorrow. But there's one other thing that I don't want you to miss before we leave this morning. That is we can know faith in the midst of disbelief. Look in John 20:24;

24 *Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came,*

You see Thomas, you remember him as the doubter. By now his doubt has turned to disbelief. He is nowhere to be found that first Easter day. I wonder where he was? He missed church and Jesus showed up the day he missed church. He missed the whole thing. That's why it's so important that when God's people gather to worship Jesus Christ we be present and accounted for. The world has nothing like what we have in God's church. During the worship God inhabits the praises of His people. His presence is so real that we can reach out and by faith take hold of Him. To be together with God's people, God's family, friends that care about you, the fellowship of God's church, to hear the Word of God, to be encouraged, to be equipped for life. There's nothing like church and the fellowship of God's people.

Now I know some people say, well I don't need church to worship God. Yes you do! You can worship God without church but let me tell you something, you need church. Thomas needed the fellowship of God's people that day. He was discouraged, he was broken, he'd quit, he didn't know what was up or what was down and he missed the first appearance of Jesus Christ. People say, well you know, I just go to the lake. Maybe that's where Thomas was. Maybe he went to the lake and said I'm gonna get in some skiing here just to clear the cobwebs. People say, I just worship God on the golf course. [laughter] No you don't. [laughter] I play golf, I know what you do on a golf course. [laughter] I've prayed over a lot of putts. [laughter] But I don't think that's real worship. Thomas missed it all. When you're not here regularly faithfully attending the worship and the fellowship of Jesus Christ you could miss something that could absolutely change your life, your family, your future, your forever. John 20:25 says:

25 *The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."*

Is That Your Final Answer?

They see Thomas and they say we've seen Jesus. He's alive! He said, ah come on. Really Thomas we've seen Him. Thomas was a doubter. Some people are just kind of gullible and you tell them something and they go oh, okay. But not Thomas. Thomas was the kind of guy that needed a little more. He needed truth. He was somber, he was sober the day when Jesus said I'm going to Jerusalem to visit my friend Lazarus who's has died. Thomas you got to give him credit for his courage he goes, well let's go to Jerusalem and die with him. He'll just follow Jesus to the death. Another occasion in the upper room when Jesus had gathered His disciples, John 14:2-4;

- 2 *"... I go to prepare a place for you."*
- 3 *"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."*
4. *"And where I go you know, and the way you know."*

The disciples are going oh yeah, preach it brother, Amen, Amen. Thomas raises his hand, Lord, Lord? I don't know where your going. We don't know the way. All those guys were clueless but Thomas wasn't afraid to ask. Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes. Thomas said, wait a minute. Lord, we don't know where You're going. How can we know the way? I'm so glad that he ask that question. Then Jesus said, John 14:6;

- 6 *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

So when Thomas is encountered by these excited disciples He goes, yeah sure. Then he make his famous statement in John 20:25-28;

- 25 *... "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*
- 26 *And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"*
- 27 *Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."*
- 28 *And Thomas [falls on his face] answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*

Give him credit. When he saw the truth, when he saw the reality of the resurrection he identified Jesus for who He is, Lord and God. That's what the resurrection is all about. Is Jesus Lord or not, the resurrection tells us the truth. Thomas understood it. Jesus said, God bless you Thomas but John 20:29;

- 29 *... "...Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

He's talking about you and me. Though we have not been privileged to see His resurrection body yet, one day we will. We don't see and then believe, we believe and then the Bible promises us one day we will see Jesus. When we see Him He will be glorified and risen and coming for us. He turns our disbelief into faith.

I close with John 20:31;

- 31 *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

John said I could have written so many more things about Jesus Christ in my gospel. I told you these things so that you will believe. What I have shared with you I now show you and give to you so that you may believe and in believing you may have life. You see, His life becomes our life when we believe. Thomas said, John 20:28;

- 28 *... "My Lord and my God!"*

Is That Your Final Answer?

Have you said that? Have you said, Jesus Christ you are my Lord and my God? It's not enough to believe in these things historically. They happened historically, these things are true. But have you believed in Jesus Christ? Have you received Him as your Lord and as your Savior? Is the life of Jesus Christ by His Spirit living in you? That is the hope and the faith of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's what this is all about. Jesus said, Revelation 3:20;

20 *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in ...”*

I want to invite you to receive Jesus Christ into your life today on this Easter morning. Let Him turn your sorrow to joy, your defeats into victories and your unbelief into genuine belief.