

CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION TOGETHER

Life Connecting Teams ~ April 2025
New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3 NKJV

OBJECTIVE: To meditate on the joy, we experience when we know the Risen Christ.

INTRODUCTION: I'm not so sure how many will be celebrating Easter with the traditional Easter egg hunt using real eggs this year, but there are substitutes made of plastic in many colors and patterns that are used to keep the celebration and tradition going. This is an example of how we substitute in the natural world, to redeem the way of life we value. Then, there are those who are willing to pay the price for the real thing as is stated by Paul in the following scripture: Philippians 3:8 NLT "Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ."

LESSON: I owed a debt I could not pay; He paid a debt He did not owe. This is the magnificent divine exchange that took place through the redemptive work that took place at Calvary. This is why we rejoice in Christ Jesus in the Easter season, and in all seasons. This is why we count all things as nothing for the sake of knowing Jesus Christ and the power and joy of His Resurrection. The songwriter said, "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin has left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow."

There is nothing in this world that can produce unshakable joy. A joy that endures. A joy that can grow over time; that never perishes, or fades. That's the joy we've come together today to celebrate. We are celebrating the only certain ground for joy there ever has been or ever will be in this world. And that is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This distinctive joy is not rooted in the temporary highs of life but is rather grounded in the eternal promise of the Resurrection.

Let's look at reasons why we can rejoice in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. For the remainder of the lesson take time to discuss and reflect on each point by reading each scripture included. The following are just a few of the endless reasons drawn from Scripture for all believers to be filled with joy as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus.

1. **The Redemption of Mankind:** Through His sacrificial death, Jesus provided atonement for sin, reconciled humanity to God, and secured victory over sin and death, offering believers the hope of eternal life. The Gospel of **John 3:16** states, "For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." And **Romans 5:8** declares, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." **Luke 19:10 NIV** "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."
2. **Access to God:** As Christians, we have access to God through Jesus Christ. Jesus has cleared a path to God through His death, and believers have access to God the Father through the Holy Spirit. Our faith in Jesus gives us access to God the Father Almighty. we never need to fear coming to God for forgiveness and restoration. The resurrection of Jesus and his ascension to

CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION TOGETHER

Life Connecting Teams ~ April 2025

New Covenant Church of Philadelphia

the right hand of the Father show that God has given Jesus Christ total rule over the present age and over the age to come. **(read Ephesians 1:20-23)**

3. **Justification:** Paul writes that Jesus was raised from the dead to justify believers **(Romans 4:25)**. In other words, we can come into the presence of the divine throne of judgment and know that we will be declared righteous. We can be declared to be right, not because of who we are and what we have done, but because of who Jesus is and what he has done.
4. **The Gift of the Holy Spirit:** Jesus promised that He would give the Holy Spirit, to indwell His followers **(John 7:39)**. After he arose from the dead, he gave the Holy Spirit to bring forgiveness to those who believe in Him and to empower their proclamation of the good news **(John 20:21-23)**. The powerful working of the Holy Spirit also demonstrates that Jesus is Lord and Christ **(Acts 2:36)**.
5. **Transformation:** Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we know that believers will also be physically raised from the dead. Indeed, all of creation is even now being fundamentally and permanently changed by the impact of His resurrection from the dead **(1 Corinthians 15:20-27)**.
6. **The End of Sin, Death, and Humiliation:** Jesus Christ earned our salvation for us. However, to do so, the eternal Son of God first had to humble Himself by becoming a human being. Think of it, the Perfect Son of God wrapped in human flesh because He loves us. He then humbled himself even further by embracing death for us, since death is the penalty for our sin **(Philippians 2:6-8)**. The good news is that He put an end to our sin, our death, and our humiliation. Through his cross, He overcame the power of our sins and our death. And through His resurrection, He overcame both His humiliation and our humiliation **(Philippians 2:9)**.

Our Savior lives! And when we consider the living hope we have, the eternal inheritance that awaits us, the new life that He gives us, the protection He provides us, the suffering He brings us through, the honor that awaits us, and the real relationship we have with Him, we can't help but give thanks and rejoice! This distinctive joy is not rooted in the temporary happiness of life but is rather grounded in the eternal promise of the Resurrection.

Remember in Prayer

- Bishop Grannum; Pastor Bob Oliver & Lady Denise; Pastor Omar Barlow & Sis. Jeneen; Pastor Andrew Grannum and Sis. Chevas; Pastor Wangui and their families.
- Ministers, Deacons and Heads of Ministries
- NCCOP staff and volunteers
- Growth in participation of NCCOP Prayer Ministries
- The sick and shut-in; those who have experienced the passing of a loved one.
- Increase in the donations and support for the Capital Campaign.

Resource: <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithmatters/2024/01/the-profound-joy-of-the-resurrection-of-jesus-christ/>