

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



**“EASTER TRANSFORMATIONS”
MARK 16: 1-6; I COR. 15: 54-57**

IF THERE WERE NO EASTER, THEN CHRISTMAS WOULD LOSE ITS SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES AND HOLIDAYS. IN FACT, THE RESURRECTION STANDS AS THE HEART OF THE EARLY CHRISTIAN MESSAGE. THE FIRST RECORDED CHRISTIAN SERMON WAS A PROCLAMATION OF THE FACT AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION (ACTS 2:14-36). CHRISTIANITY, IN ITS BEGINNINGS, DID NOT CONSIST OF A NEW DOCTRINE ABOUT GOD NOR OF A NEW HOPE OF IMMORTALITY NOR EVEN OF NEW THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS ABOUT THE NATURE OF SALVATION. IT CONSISTED OF THE RECITAL OF A GREAT EVENT, OF A MIGHTY ACT OF GOD---THE RAISING OF CHRIST FROM THE DEAD. THE GOSPELS TELL US SEVERAL FACTS ABOUT THE RESURRECTION:

1. JESUS WAS DEAD.
2. THE HOPES OF THE DISCIPLES WERE ALSO DEAD.
3. THE TOMB WAS EMPTY.
4. THE RESURRECTION FAITH ON THE PART OF THE DISCIPLES.
5. THE DISCIPLES' DISCOURAGEMENT AND FRUSTRATION WAS SUDDENLY AND ABRUPTLY TRANSFORMED INTO CONFIDENCE AND CERTAINTY.

WHAT EFFECT DID THESE FACTS HAVE ON THE DISCIPLES, AND WHAT EFFECT SHOULD THEY HAVE ON US THIS MORNING?

I. FIRST OF ALL, CHRISTIANITY IS SOMETHING THAT ENTIRELY CHANGES US

OVER THE COURSE OF HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY, THE DISCIPLES DID NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT JESUS HAD BEEN TEACHING THEM. THEY HAD FALSE IDEAS ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND WERE JEALOUS OF ONE ANOTHER AND FEARFUL THAT ONE WOULD HOLD THE HIGHEST POSITIONS WITHIN THAT KINGDOM. WHEN JESUS WAS ARRESTED, THEY SCATTERED OUT OF FEAR THE SAME FATE WOULD BEFALL THEM. BUT THE NEWS OF THE RESURRECTION CHANGED THEM FROM COWARDLY CRINGING IN THE SHADOWS TO BOLDY PREACHING IN THE STREETS. THE EASTER MESSAGE OF THE RESURRECTION IS REAL CHRISTIANITY, AND REAL CHRISTIANITY IS NOT SOMETHING PEOPLE TAKE UP, IT TAKES THEM UP!

II. CHRISTIANITY IS SOMETHING THAT MASTERS US

CHRISTIANITY IS NOT SOMETHING WE CONTROL AND MANIPULATE BUT SOMETHING WHICH CONTROLS US AND GOVERNS THE WHOLE OF OUR LIFE. THE GOSPEL WAS CENTRAL TO THE FIRST CHRISTIANS; IT WAS AT THE VERY HEART OF THEIR LIVES. IT WAS THE BIGGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT THING. IS IT THAT WAY WITH US?

III. CHRISTIANITY IS SOMETHING WHICH MUST BE TOLD TO OTHERS

THE MESSAGE OF THE RESURRECTION SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THROUGHOUT JERUSALEM AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS, AND THAT WAS BECAUSE THE DISCIPLES COULD NOT BE SILENCED, EVEN BY THE AUTHORITIES. WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, YOU CANNOT KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT. WHY DID THEY FEEL THAT THEY HAD TO TELL EVERYONE?

1. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE GOSPEL MESSAGE HAD DONE TO THEM.
2. BECAUSE THEY FELT COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT KNOW.
3. BECAUSE THEY WANTED EVERYONE TO PRAISE JESUS.
4. BECAUSE THEY WERE NO LONGER AFRAID OF DEATH.

THE EASTER MESSAGE OF THE RESURRECTION IS REAL CHRISTIANITY. IT TRANSFORMED THOSE FIRST DISCIPLES; HAS IT TRANSFORMED US?