

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 2/7-8/2022 *Matthew Chapter 28*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Matthew Chapter 28 - He is Risen - (vs. 1-8); The Women Worship the Risen Lord – (vs. 9-10); The Soldiers are Bribe - (vs. 11-15); The Great Commission – (vs. 16-20).

Read these accounts also in (*Mark Chapter 16*); (*Luke Chapter 24*); (*John Chapters 20 & 21*).

CHAPTER 28 - THEME: The resurrection of Jesus. The giving of the Great Commission.

The Resurrection

Mat 28:1 *Now after the Sabbath* (early Sunday morning), **as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.**

(Mar 16:1) Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

- **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.** Mark tells us that the other Mary was Mary, the mother of James.

Mat 28:2 *And behold, there was a great earthquake; for (because, assigning a reason) **an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.***

- **In reading all four gospel accounts of this resurrection**, there seems to be possible discrepancies in the accounts. They do not all follow in exact, precise order or even in the recording of the events. This, of course, is good proof that there wasn't collusion on the part of the gospel writers. But they all recorded the events from their perspective. From Matthew's perspective, he was there. He was a part of the whole procedure.
- **Mark was just a child, and Mark's gospel**, was written from listening to Peter's account. In Mark's gospel, you have a view of Peter's viewpoint of the whole event.
- **Luke came along later. He began to journey with Paul.** Luke, being a physician, a professional man, came to Jerusalem to personally interview many of the principals who were involved in the story.
- **John wrote many years later.** He left out many of the events that were recorded by the other three gospel writers, which, of course, he was familiar with, probably feeling there was no need to repeat it again. We see the life of Christ from a different perspective from John. The majority of John's gospel is relating to just the last few weeks of the life of Jesus.
- **Each one give us their own particular slant** as they sought either through the eyes of Peter, or as with Luke through the eyes of those that he interviewed, or with Matthew through his personal experience, and John through personal experience, writing later and seeking not to duplicate that, which had already been written.
- **Matthew mentions Mary Magdalene and the other Mary.** Both Luke and Mark tell us that it was Mary, the mother of James. Mark adds that Salome was also with them. John tells us that Joanna was with them; and then they mention also the other women. If you put together a possible scenario, harmonizing the various accounts, eliminating seeming discrepancies, you have the following: Matthew has Mary Magdalene and the other Mary coming to the tomb. Mark adds the name Salome to the two. Luke speaks of the women, speaking of Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary, the mother of James.
- **Early in the morning while it is still dark, these three women** make their way toward the tomb. The other women, perhaps coming from another part of the city will also be coming to the tomb. The purpose is to get to the body of Jesus, who was crucified on the day before the sabbath. There are a lot of hurried procedures in taking Him from the cross, getting Him buried before the sabbath day began. They had not had the opportunity to put the spices and all on His body. It seems that their desire was to come and to wrap spices in the linens and just probably for the last time, just touch His body.
- **It could be that Mary Magdalene was impatient**, in a hurry to get there and went on ahead. Possibly, Mary Magdalene, in her anxiety to get there, hurried ahead of the others. When she came to the tomb, she saw that the stone was rolled away. Rather than waiting for the other women to arrive, she went running off to where Peter and John were staying to inform them that the stone was rolled away from the tomb. She didn't bother to examine it. She just ran to let them know of this change in events.
- **At that point, Peter and John came running to the tomb.** In the meantime, the other two ladies, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome, and perhaps the other women coming from another part of the city, arrived at the tomb and there they saw angels who were there, saying, *(Mat 28:6-7) He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. [7] And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."* *(Luk 24:5) Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"*
- **These women went off to inform the disciples of the angelic message!** In the meantime, after they had left, Peter and John arrived, they saw the stone rolled away. John stood on the outside. but Peter rushed in! Then, John looked in and they saw the linen clothes, in which Jesus was wrapped. They saw the napkin that was about His head, which was folded and in a separate place by itself. They went off, Peter wondering what all the significance was, but John in his heart just believing the Lord is risen!
- **Then Mary finally gets back to the tomb, probably a little breathless**, this time, she looks in, seeing an angel! He asked the question, Woman, why are you crying like that? She answered, Because they have taken away my Lord and I don't know where they have put Him! She turned away and saw Jesus standing there! In in the darkness, with her eyes filled with tears, she didn't recognize Him, thinking perhaps He

was the gardener. He asked her the same question, Woman, why are you crying like that? She replied, If you'll just tell me where you've taken Him, I will carry Him away! **Then, Jesus revealed Himself and said, "Oh Mary."** She screamed, "Rabboni!" **She came and got a death grip on Him!** Jesus said, **Mary, don't cling to Me, but go and tell Peter, John and the other disciples, that I am risen!** Mary was sent to bring the news directly from Jesus that He had appeared to her that He was risen (*John 20:13-18*).

- **Now Mary went off to let the disciples know but in the meantime,** Jesus then appeared to the other women as they were on their way to let the disciples know. When they saw Jesus, they came and held Him by the feet. He commanded them to go and tell the disciples that He was risen indeed.
- **There was a great earthquake,** we are told, only in the Matthew account. "And **an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat on it.** We remember that the day that Jesus was crucified, that there was an earthquake. The rocks were torn and that was one of the supernatural phenomena that took place at His crucifixion. The result, now, of this great earthquake, was the angel rolling the stone away from the door of the tomb. It was not to let Jesus out, but to let the disciples in, so that they might indeed see that the tomb was empty, that the Lord had risen!

Mat 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

- **Here is this supernatural being, this angel,** rolling away the stone.

Mat 28:4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.

- **Afraid of the angel, the guards were just lying there like they were dead,** hoping that he would think they were dead. Just imagine, this angel whose face was like lightning, just the brilliance flashing, the white garment, rolling back the stone.
- **The guards were there at the request of the Jews.** When Jesus was entombed, they came to Pilate, saying, This fellow talked about His resurrection. We want you to seal the tomb and put a guard on duty lest maybe the disciples come and steal the body and make up some story and it will really turn out disastrous! Pilate said, You have your own guards (Roman sentries)! You make it as secure as you can.

Mat 28:5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

- **According to John, Mary Magdalene had left to go and tell Peter and John** of the supposed grave robbery (*Joh 20:1*). But the **other women** remained and had the interview with the angel (in the form of men, Luke says) about the empty tomb and the risen Christ.

Mat 28:6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

- **I know who you're looking for!** You're looking for Jesus who was crucified. But He's not here! He is risen. Then, as he said, I think that was sort of a just what are you expecting? He said He would do it. And it's sort of a put down in a way because of their unbelief in His word.

Mat 28:7 And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."

- **And go quickly and tell His disciples.** He's going to meet you in Galilee. We do know during that afternoon, Jesus met with Peter. There were no hard feelings. There was just forgiveness and understanding! The Bible says, (*Psa 103:14*) *For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.* How wonderful it is to know that the Lord is very understanding concerning our weaknesses. He said to Peter, Your spirit indeed is willing, but your flesh is weak. He understands our frame. There must have been just a lot of forgiveness and assurances to Peter that afternoon.
- **Later on in the afternoon, He joined the two disciples** who were on their way to Emmaus. At that time, the other disciples were gathered and the two came running back from Emmaus to Jerusalem, wanting to tell the others that they had seen Jesus! When they met, they said, Peter saw Him too. Also, some of the women have seen Him! While they were there together, the ten of them, suddenly Jesus appeared in the midst saying, Peace. Thomas happened to be absent and later when He was told these stories. Thomas said, I can't believe until I see it for myself. About a week later, Jesus appeared again and this time, Thomas was present, then avowing his faith of believing, Lord I believe!
- **Then, they were to go up to the Galilee** where Jesus have promised that He would meet them. This is when they had gone up, Jesus hadn't shown up immediately, and Peter said, I'm going fishing. Six others said, We'll go with you. They fished all night and caught nothing! Then, they came back again to Jerusalem. They were with Jesus on the Mount of Olives near Bethany when He ascended into heaven. For a forty-day period, both around Jerusalem and then later up in the Galilee, to groups, to individuals, and to a large multitude of 500, Jesus was appearing over this period of time. He was not constantly with them, but suddenly appearing to them.
- **When He appeared to them the week after the resurrection, when Thomas** was present, he would

express his doubts. He said that I will not believe until I can put my finger into His hand and thrust my hand into His side. Later, when Jesus appeared to them, Jesus turned to Thomas, saying, Okay, Thomas, you wanted to, go ahead and put your finger here in My hand. Go ahead, touch My side. See if it isn't Me. And Thomas cried, my Lord and my God. Then Jesus said, Blessed are they who see and believe, but more blessed are they who believe without seeing!

- **Notice, when Thomas was saying I won't believe unless I can put my finger, Jesus was there!** He heard Thomas' expressions of doubt. That's why, and He demonstrated the fact, when He saw Thomas! Okay Thomas, you want to do it, go ahead. It was a manifestation of the fact that Jesus was there with them. It seems that Thomas wasn't the only one doubting, the two disciples on the road to Emmaus were rebuked by Jesus for their doubting. In fact, they had received the message of the women that they had seen Jesus.
- **Here they were on their way to Emmaus. They were downcast,** just walking along, just down in the dumps. Jesus approached them, saying, Hey fellows, what's wrong that you seem to be so sad as you're walking along? They replied, Are you a stranger around here, you don't know what's been going on? What are you talking about? Well, there was a man by the name of Jesus. He was from Nazareth. He went around doing good! We had hoped in Him for the salvation of Israel, but they crucified Him three days ago. This is the third day. Some of the women of our company said that they saw Him this morning but, but they were doubtful of the women's story. Then, Jesus began to open the scriptures to them, rebuking them, saying, O slow of heart to believe (*Luke 24:13-25*). He rebuked them for their doubting.
- **For forty days, He was appearing to them.** Suddenly, without forewarning, He would be there in their midst. His purpose was to get them accustomed to the realization that He was with them as He said He would be. He was with them even though they could not see Him, to get them aware of the fact that the Lord is here. He had said, (*Mat 18:20*) *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.* It was a little training session during this forty days, as He was suddenly appearing and showing Himself, and it was getting them acclimated to the realization that the Lord is here, even though we can't see Him.
- **That's exactly the kind of consciousness that He wants us to have!** He wants us to be conscious of His presence, though we may not see Him with our physical eyes, to become accustomed to the fact that the Lord is with His people. The Lord is with us tonight. He is here. He wants us to be aware of that. One of our great problems is the lack of the consciousness of the presence of the Lord with us! If we could only develop that kind of consciousness that the Lord is here with us! That He is with us in every situation! He knows our doubts and our misgivings! We need to become aware and conscious of the Lord's presence!

Mat 28:8 So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.

- ***Fear and great joy!*** Notice it is not great fear and joy, but fear and great joy! It was a strange mixture, fear and joy at the same time, in the same soul. To hear that Christ was risen, was matter of joy; but to be led into His grave, and to see an angel, and talk with Him about it, could not but cause fear. It was such good news, but they were afraid that it was too good to be true.

Mat 28:9 And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" (*chairo* – good morning, welcome, good day, hail to you, I am glad to see you!) ***So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.***

- **Christ's appearing to the women, to confirm the testimony of the angel!** These zealous good women not only heard the first tidings of him, but had the first sight of Him, after His resurrection. The angel directed those that would see Him, to go to Galilee, but before that time came, even here also, they looked after Him that lives, and sees them. Jesus Christ often anticipates, but never frustrates, the believing expectations of His people.
- **As Jesus meets them, He gives them one word, "Rejoice!"** That is His commentary summarizing the whole resurrection scene! (*Joh 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. (Php 4:4) Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*
- **There are many reasons that we have to rejoice, as Christians, because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead!** The implications of His resurrection are absolutely huge! May we understand these implications spiritually more, so that they can come out as we worship and praise Him, thanking Him in a fuller way for what He has done in the resurrection!
- **The resurrection of Jesus is a cause for joy!**
 - ✓ Because it declares Jesus to be the Son of God, just as He claimed. It verified His claim to be divine, that is, to be God in human flesh, the Son of God and God the Son! If His claim of deity was true, then the resurrection would be the Father's way of substantiating that claim. The Father did in

raising Him from the dead! (**Rom 1:4**) and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

- ✓ Because it **reveals Him to be the promised Messiah!** All of these Old Testament prophets spoke of the fact that when the Messiah came, as He would be sent into the world by the Father. In order for Him to fulfill the Messianic prophecies, it would necessitate His death, His burial and His resurrection. Isaiah 53 speaks continually of His death for our sins. (**Psa 16:10**) *For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.* His resurrection was required in order for us to recognize Him as the Messiah.
- ✓ Because it **revealed that man can be justified through simple faith in Jesus.** To be justified before God, means that He looks at me just as if I had never sinned! None of us has a righteous standing before God on our own. The resurrection is God's stamp of approval upon the fact that man is justified by simple faith in Jesus Christ. (**Rom 4:24**) *but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, [25] who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.* I know that I am justified! That God looks at me just as if I had never sinned, because of my faith in Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Because it **reveals that our faith in Him for salvation and forgiveness, is not in vain.** (**1Co 15:14, 20**) *And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty, and your faith is also empty. [20] But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* The resurrection reminds us that our faith in Christ is not in vain!
- ✓ Because it **reveals to us His power and His victory over death.** (**1Pe 1:3**) *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.* Mankind is in need of a living hope! Christians have a living hope, which is a hope that has conquered death. A hope that cannot be affected by death. God has provided us with that quality of hope! He has done it through the death and the burial and the resurrection of His Son.
- ✓ Because it **reveals His power over power and victory over hell!** In (**Rev 1:17-18**) *And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. [18] I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.* Jesus has the keys to death and to hell. He has conquered them. He defeated both of them in His resurrection.
- ✓ Because it **has provided us with a high priest, who sits at the right hand of the Father.** The Bible says He ever lives (**Heb 7:25**) *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.* There is nothing that is anything more comforting to the heart of a Christian, than to realize that Jesus never ceases to pray for you!
- ✓ Because it **reveals that we have been saved from the wrath that is due to come upon our sin.** Jesus' resurrection reveals that we have been saved from the wrath that was due because of our sin. (**Rom 5:9-10**) *Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. [10] For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*
- ✓ Finally, because **it is the guarantee of our own future resurrection into heaven!** Paul said, so perfectly, (**2Co 4:14**) *knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will present us with you.* The Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Him!
- **What wonderful considerations!** How far reaching the resurrection of Jesus Christ is, out into Christianity! Out into our theology! Out into the daily and the practical of our lives! The intimacy of our devotion and our relationship with God. It's so important to know these things and to realize these are all ours, because of His resurrection!
- **So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.** We note their affectionate respect they paid Him! They threw themselves at His feet, putting themselves into a posture of adoration! They *worshiped Him* with humility and godly fear. Demonstrating such love and affection they had to Him, they held Him, and would not let Him go. Now that they had this further assurance of His resurrection; they welcomed it with both arms! What a great lesson us! We should embrace Jesus Christ with such reverence, casting ourselves at His feet, by faith taking hold of Him, and with love and joy, lay Him near our hearts!

Mat 28:10 *Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."*

- **Do not afraid.** They are not to fear, hearing repeated notices of His resurrection, nor be afraid from the appearance of one from the dead. For the news, even though strange, was both true and good! We should note and remember that Christ arose from the dead, to silence the fear of His people's fears. There is enough in that to silence them!

- **Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.**" Jesus repeats their message to go to Galilee and He will see Him there. If there be any communion between our souls and Christ, it is He that appoints the meeting, and He will observe the appointment. Jerusalem had forfeited the honor of Christ's presence. It was a tumultuous city, therefore He adjourns the meeting to Galilee. (**Son 7:11**) *Come, my beloved, Let us go forth to the field; Let us lodge in the villages.* That is especially observable here. He calls His disciples, *My brethren.*

The Report of the Guard – (Recorded in Matthew only)

Mat 28:11 *Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard (koustodia – a guard composed of soldiers) came into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened.*

- **Those men who were the elite Roman guards**, who were placed there to guard the tomb, which was evidently outside of the city, as was the place of the crucifixion. It is revealed here they came into the city, relating their story to *the chief priests all of the things that had happened!*

Mat 28:12 *When they had assembled with the elders and consulted together, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers,*

Mat 28:13 *saying, "Tell them, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept.'*

- **They bribed them to tell this lie! We fell asleep on duty.** Now the punishment for that should have been death. If you were a guard and your prisoner escaped as a result of your negligence, you were put to death. However, they, bribed the soldiers, telling them to pass along this story that the disciples came and stole the body.
- **Money was given to Judas to betray Jesus! Money was given to the Roman soldiers to spread the lie that Jesus' resurrection didn't occur! Money is being used today to silence the gospel! Money is a great servant, but a cruel master! (1Ti 6:10) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**

Mat 28:14 *And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will appease him and make you secure."*

Mat 28:15 *So they took the money and did as they were instructed; and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*

- **The willfulness of unbelief is set forth in its stark ugliness here.** The Romans soldiers on watch knew beyond doubt that Christ was risen! They had felt the great earthquake and seen the fearful angel break the seal and roll away the stone. They knew the body was gone, they also knew the disciples could not have stolen the body. The chief priests knew all this as well. They had been so concerned about the possibility of the resurrection or theft of Christ's body, that they had persuaded the governor to seal the tomb and set the guard.
- **The soldiers were entrusted with the tomb's security under penalty of death**, but they were helpless against the mighty angel. Despite all of this, the greed of the soldiers and the hatred of the priests were so great that they were willing to spread the absurd lie that the disciples had stolen the body! Furthermore, the Jews as a whole were quite willing to believe the impossible story. The whole city knew Jesus had been crucified and buried. They also knew the tomb was empty. If they were to reject the truth of the resurrection, they seemed to have no other choice except to say the body was stolen, despite evidence to the contrary, such as the massive stone, the Romans seal and the heavy guard. As time went on, however, and the disciples vindicated their honesty by their willingness to suffer persecution and even death for their testimony. It became absolutely certain that this story was nothing but a desperate fabrication!

The Great Commission

Mat 28:16 *Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them.*

- **Then the eleven disciples went** - When the women went and told them that they had seen the Lord, and that He had promised to meet them in Galilee. Verses 11-15 should be read in a parenthesis, with this verse 16, as continuation of the subject in verse 10. It is likely that Christ arranges this meeting in Galilee because that is where most of His followers are. This location seems the most likely for the massive gathering of disciples Paul describes in (**1Co 15:6**) *After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.*

Mat 28:17 *When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.*

- **They worshipped Him!** Some paid Him honor as the Messiah!
- **But some doubted** - As, for example, Thomas, (**Joh 20:25**) *The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "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." The disciples had not expected His resurrection; they were therefore slow to believe.

- **The mention of their doubting shows that they were honest men and** were not easily imposed on. Also, that they had not previously agreed to affirm that He had risen! They were convinced only by the strength of the evidence. Their caution in examining the evidence; their slowness to believe; their firm conviction after all their doubts; and their willingness to show their conviction even by their "death," is most conclusive proof that they were "not" deceived in regard to the fact of His resurrection!
- **Some worshiped and some doubted—that is how it has been** for over nineteen hundred years! All of us are in one category or the other!

Mat 28:18 *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

- **The Scripture says, (Heb 2:8) YOU HAVE PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET."** *For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.* All power has been given to Him. We are told that Jesus is the creator, the creator of the universe. He not only is the creator of the universe, but He is also the sustainer of the universe.
- **By Him all things are held together or consist! (Col 1:17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.** He's the cohesive force, holding the whole material world from disintegrating. In the nucleus of an atom, positive charged protons are tightly clustered, having the natural characteristic to repel each other. Like poles repel.
- **Man has learned how to bombard the nucleus of an atom** with slow moving neutrons that disturb and upset the molecular balance of the atom, causing atomic explosions. The tremendous energy and power that is released when the atoms act according to their natural characteristics, the positive charges being upset so that they do repel each other, and as they repel this tremendous blast of energy.
- **Jesus is holding the material world together!** One day, He's going to relax and let go! Peter tells us (2Pe 3:12) *looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?* This whole universe is going to go up! It's going to be dissolved, melting with a fervent heat! One big, gigantic atomic explosion, the big bang is not past, it's future. It's going to happen. When the Lord releases the atoms and the protons repel each other, and the whole universe dissolves, melting with a fervent heat, and God then to create a new heaven and a new earth!
- **What it would be like, we really don't know.** We just have to wait and find out. But "**All authority, all power,**" He said, "**has been given to me in heaven and on earth.**" **How awesome!** We can't possibly even imagine the scope of this statement. "All power is given to me in heaven and in earth." Creative powers. Powers in the material universe that are greater than anything that man knows or understands. But not only in the physical, in heaven and in earth, but also, the powers of the spirit realm, the heavenly realm! All principalities and powers and all subject unto Him. He has power over it all!

Mat 28:19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

- **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.** Their task and ours, their commission of the Lord was to go out into the world "*and make disciples of all nations!*" As we live, being prompted by the Holy Spirit, we are to share the gospel to those, with which we come into contact! There is this need to go! We are not to put out a sign and wait for them to come to us. We go to them!
- **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!** In the New Testament, in the book of Acts, they were baptizing them in the name of Jesus, Jehovah Shewa. However, this formula is Father, Son and Holy Spirit was probably being also used. When we baptize people, we usually say, I baptize you in the name of Jesus, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we cover all the bases, because there are those who are United Pentecostal Church of God and they say, If you haven't been baptized in the name of Jesus, you haven't been baptized. They confuse young believers. That is why I say, In the name of Jesus, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in case they get hold of some of these rabid people who love to argue and confuse. When they ask, How were you baptized? Were you baptized in the name of Jesus? It leaves the people without any further argument.
- **Three reasons for water baptism; First, to obey the command to be water baptized. Secondly, In order to profess Jesus publicly. (Mat 10:32-33) "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. [33] But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.** To say to the whole world, to the whole angelic realm, I am now a follower of Jesus Christ. I have chosen to do that, and I make it public! **Thirdly, to identify with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.**

- **When Paul came to the church of Ephesus and he saw that there seemed to be something lacking** in their experience, and in trying to probe for what's missing here, he said, (*Act 19:2-5*), Had they been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, the Holy Spirit, which had become a practice, then they would have heard at least of the Holy Spirit. So how are you then baptized? They then said, we never heard of the Holy Spirit.
- **What has happened in your heart?** It really honestly doesn't matter what words are said, or if you were dunk forwards or backwards, or three times as some people do, in the name of the Father, in the name of the Son, in the name of the Holy Spirit. What matters is what has happened in your heart! Baptism signifies and represents the death of the old life, the life of the flesh. The commitment to a new life in the Spirit. If that hasn't happened in your heart, even drowning you isn't going to save you. It isn't baptism that saves but it is that work of God's Spirit within our hearts that really matters!

Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo (*idou* – emphasis on importance), ***I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*** "Amen.

- **All the things that they have been taught by Jesus, they were to impart to others.** We believers have work to do until He comes! The mission of the church is to carry the message of Jesus to the world, which basically summed up, is that the spirit realm is far superior to the physical realm. That which belongs to the physical realm is in the realm of death. The spirit realm is life. The things of the material, physical realm create strife, anxiety, fear, worry, misery, uncertainty. All of these things grow out of the desires that we have for physical things.
- **The realm of the spirit is marked by love.** It is filled with joy! Its effect is peace! That it is much better, far superior to live after the spirit because that's the life of peace and joy and love, rather than after the flesh, which is a life of strife and frustration, anxiety. He taught that we are to forgive, that we are to be compassionate, understanding, loving. These are the things that Jesus taught. We're not to take advantage of other people. We're not to destroy others. We're not to defile others. We should live to please the Lord rather than living to please ourselves. Our lives should not be egocentric but should be Christ-centric, centered around Him! Then you will have joy! Then, you'll be blessed, having fulfillment and satisfaction. But the life after the flesh will always leave you empty and frustrated. That you'll never find satisfaction in the life of the flesh, it leads to pain, misery, fighting, wars.
- **These are basically the things that Jesus taught, which we need to teach others.** The life of the spirit will bring you into peace, love, tranquility. Why do you suppose people are so upset with the gospel message? Why do you suppose that that upsets people to hear that you should be loving, you should be forgiving, you should be kind and considerate? Why does that upset people? Why are people so upset with Jesus and the gospel that He taught? It must be that they are egocentric, they are out for themselves, they are living after the flesh, and they are drawn to that life of the flesh, and they don't want to hear something else because it might make them feel guilty for what they are doing.
- **We are to share with all people! We are to be His witnesses!** We're not to convince all people, that isn't what we've been asked to do, but just to bear witness to all people and whether or not they accept or reject the witness is in their court. It's my obligation to let them know the truth! What they want to do with the truth is up to them! They will be held accountable for the truth that they received. We are not told to argue people into a faith or belief in Jesus Christ.
- **Many people are mistaken as to what Jesus is all about and what Jesus really taught.** Unfortunately, many people have been observing people who have claimed to be Christians and have not seen much difference between them and the world. They ask, what's makes you any different from me? We are called to be living epistles. Our lives are to be examples to the world of the difference that Jesus makes when we surrender ourselves to Him.
- **Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.** "Amen. This is the connection. All power is given to me, Jesus said, now you are to go! It doesn't seem right. If He said all power is given unto Me, I'm going to go, then that seems right. But you weaklings, you go! I have the power, but you go! But the answer is, "**lo, I am with you always.**" He is there to give us that power that we need. He is there to empower us in our witness. And He told them, now look, you're going to be called before kings, you're going to be brought before judges, don't be afraid, don't take forethought of what you're going to say and all, because in that hour, the Holy Spirit will give you what you are to say. It will turn to you as an opportunity to witness. Every time they were brought before the councils, the judges, the kings, they used it as an opportunity to witness for Jesus Christ.
- **"lo, I am with you always, Even to the end of the age."** Amen. The promise is the Lord's presence with us. Here we are approaching the end of the age and we're getting so close. We're getting so close. We're getting towards the end of the age but that's great! He said He'll be with us even to the end of the age!

SUMMARY POINTS:

- **The resurrection of Jesus is a cause for joy, BECAUSE the resurrection:**
 - ✓ It declares **Jesus to be the Son of God, just as He claimed.**
 - ✓ It reveals **Him to be the promised Messiah!**
 - ✓ It revealed **that man can be justified through simple faith in Jesus.**
 - ✓ It reveals **that our faith in Him for salvation and forgiveness, is not in vain.**
 - ✓ It reveals **to us His power and His victory over death.**
 - ✓ It reveals **His power over power and victory over hell!**
 - ✓ It has **provided us with a high priest, who sits at the right hand of the Father.**
 - ✓ It reveals **that we have been saved from the wrath that is due to come upon our sin.**
 - ✓ Finally, it is **the guarantee of our own future resurrection into heaven!**
- **We have to take the gospel to them. We do not need to make the gospel powerful!** Paul said, (*Rom 1:16*) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*
- **God breaks through! We're not doing this on our own!** (*Mat 28:18-20*) *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*
- **We deliver the gospel! God makes it powerful!** God says, Amen to it, in people's hearts. He takes it from there!
- *[19] Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

CLOSING SONG:

DEATH WAS ARRESTED North Point Worship Seth Condray (4:55)

Alone in my sorrow and dead in my sin Lost without hope with no place to begin
Your love made a way to let mercy come in When death was arrested and my life began
Ash was redeemed only beauty remains My orphan heart was given a name
My mourning grew quiet, my feet rose to dance When death was arrested and my life began

(Chorus) - Oh, Your grace so free, washes over me You have made me new, now life begins with You
It's Your endless love, pouring down on us You have made us new, now life begins with You

Released from my chains, I'm a prisoner no more My shame was a ransom He faithfully bore
He cancelled my debt and He called me His friend When death was arrested and my life began (Chorus)

Our Savior displayed on a criminal's cross Darkness rejoiced as though heaven had lost
But then Jesus arose with our freedom in hand That's when death was arrested and my life began
That's when death was arrested and my life began (Chorus)

Oh, we're free, free, forever we're free Come join the song of all the redeemed
Yes, we're free, free, forever amen When death was arrested and my life began (2X)

When death was arrested and my life began That's when death was arrested and my life began

HALLELUJAH MESSIAH CHORUS 42 George Frideric Handel (1741) Solti, Chicago Symphony (3:39)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
The kingdom of this world Is become the kingdom of our Lord
And of His Christ, and of His Christ
And He shall reign for ever and ever And He shall reign for ever and ever
And He shall reign for ever and ever For ever and ever, forever and ever
King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
King of kings (Forever and ever Hallelujah! Hallelujah!)
And Lord of lords (King of kings and Lord of lords)
And He shall reign And He shall reign And He shall reign forever and ever
King of kings (Forever and ever)
And He shall reign (Hallelujah! Hallelujah!) And He shall reign forever and ever
King of kings! and Lord of lords! King of kings! and Lord of lords!
And He shall reign forever and ever Forever and ever Forever and ever
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Assignment for next week: **Read *Revelation Chapter 1!***