

MISSIO DEI

Missio Dei is Latin for “the mission of God”. The Bible tells the story of God and His mission to redeem and restore this world through Jesus. The whole Bible is the story of God’s plan enacted through God’s people in God’s world for the sake of God’s creation.

Easter Morning (John 20:1-18 NIV)

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes, ¹¹ but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ “Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!

Easter sets our hearts on FIRE

“Were not our hearts burning within us...” Luke 24:32

“My heart was strangely warmed.” J. Wesley

Easter is about a LIVING Person

“It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.” Rev. 21:6

“With this kind of hope to excite us, nothing holds us back.”

2 Cor. 3:12

Easter is a lifelong CHALLENGE

“The cross symbolizes a cosmic as well as historic truth. Love conquers the world, but its victory is not an easy one.” R. Niebuhr

“Perhaps the transformation of the disciples of Jesus is the greatest evidence of all for the resurrection.” — John R. W. Stott



Why did Jesus Rise from the Dead?

If the cross is the central symbol of Christianity, then the resurrection is the central proclamation of the church. Paul says that if Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sins, our preaching is useless, and our hope is in vain. The power of the resurrection is the basis upon which the gospel can be rightly proclaimed to the world. There are three main reasons for this.

First, the bodily resurrection of Jesus is the vindication of God the Father that Jesus the Son was, indeed, victorious over sin, death and hell. In Jesus Christ, the Fall and the curse have been overturned and a new and living Way has been opened whereby all people are called to come and receive his forgiveness and be restored into a right relationship with God.

Second the resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of our own future bodily resurrection at the end of time. Despite all the popular songs and language to the contrary, Christianity does not believe that God is merely “saving souls.” God has redeemed the entire person – body, soul, and spirit! Jesus’ resurrection is seen by the early Christians as the firstfruits of the general resurrection of us all at the end of time. So, how do we know that God will raise us from the dead on the last day? Because it has already happened once to Jesus, so we know that the same God that raised Jesus from the dead is able to raise our mortal bodies.

Finally, the resurrection of Christ is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions in the world. Without the resurrection, Christianity begins to look a lot more like Islam and Judaism. The resurrection reminds us that Christianity is not merely about a new ethical teaching or some lofty ideas about how to live a more fulfilled life. Christianity is rooted in a specific historic act. God acted in history by sending Jesus into the world and then by raising him for the dead. Buddha is in the grave. Muhammad is in the grave. Confucius is in the grave. **Jesus of Nazareth is the Risen and Living Lord! Read: Matthew 28:1-10**