

April 21, 2019



*"On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He is risen!"* Luke 24:1-6

*"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith...But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead!"* I Corinthians 15:13-20

*"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will be true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory!"* I Corinthians 15:54-55

As we noted last week, the death of Jesus on the cross of Golgatha, brought grace into the world. In him, God offered the perfect *"...sacrifice of atonement..."* satisfying the requirement of the *"...law of sin and death..."*

Three days after that death on the cross, some women who had followed Jesus during his ministry came to the tomb where his body had been placed late on Friday. They brought the spices that were used to anoint and prepare a body for burial as was their common practice. When they arrived at the tomb early on that Sunday morning they found that the heavy stone had been rolled away and that the tomb was empty.

Suddenly, two angels appeared to them making that eternity-changing announcement: *"He is not here; He is risen!"* If we understand that grace came into the world as Jesus took his last breath on the cross, then I believe, we must also understand that hope entered the world with his resurrection.

If the *"...law of sin and death..."* requires that each and everyone of us must die for our sins, and through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, God provided grace, freeing us from that law; then the resurrection proves that we are indeed free. Paul's words to the believers in Rome ring true, *"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life has set me free from the law of sin and death."* (Romans 8:1-2) The resurrection of Jesus from the dead proves that grace has come into the world and we are, in fact, set free from the *"...law of sin and death..."*

Does that mean we no longer sin? Of course it does not. All of us continue to sin even after we turn to Jesus for grace. So, does that mean, that we are again condemned under the "*...law of sin and death...*"? The Apostle John tells us, "*...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*" (I John 1:5-10) When we have given up our self-serving lives putting them to death, and when we have allowed our old, dead, sin-filled selves to be buried with him in baptism, we are raised, just as he was raised, to a brand new life. And, as we continue our walk with him, God's blood-bought grace continues to cleanse us from all our sins. In Jesus, we no longer live under the "*...law of sin and death...*" In Jesus we are victorious over death! In Jesus eternity is ours!!

