

New Life

Sunday, April 21, 2019

9:30 AM

Introduction

Interactive service

3 stations, each one an important step in the journey to new life. In fact the first one is what allows us to have access to the second one and the second one opens the door for us to participate in the third. All of them are essential - no one step by itself can truly provide new life

Some of you will want to participate in only one of these steps today, while others may find significance in all three. My prayer is that you will listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit as He speaks to you through His word and that your heart would be responsive to what He wants you to do today.

There's No New Life Without The Cross

Our first station is the Cross

Paul reminds us...

1 Corinthians 1:18 New International Version (NIV)

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

WHY? Because...

Colossians 2:13-15 New International Version (NIV)

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14** having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. **15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The cross is our first step in the pathway to new life. It is here at the foot of the cross that we find forgiveness for our sins

1 Peter 2:24 New International Version (NIV)

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

So we approach the cross with Godly sorrow and repentance and confess our sins to The Lord

2 Corinthians 7:10 New International Version (NIV)

10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret...

Acts 20:21 New International Version (NIV)

21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

1 John 1:9 New International Version (NIV)

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

The Bible says that Christ is our Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7). So through repentance and confession of our sins we accept and apply the blood of Jesus Christ to our lives, cleansing our sins and preserving us from the eternal death and separation from God we deserved. Our sins are washed away and we are made clean and new.

The cross All about Forgiveness so today we want to take a few minutes to avail ourselves of that forgiveness. I want to encourage you to confess your sins to God today. Write them down on these slips of paper as a means of confessing them to God, and then come and nail them to the cross as a symbol of your acceptance of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 2:13 New International Version (NIV)

13 When you were dead in your sins... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

Video: Liturgy - Lamb God

Video: Clean

Now the Bible says that sins that are forgiven are removed from us as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103:12) and that God has promised to

Isaiah 43:25 New International Version (NIV)

25 “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and **remembers your sins no more.**

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 New International Version (NIV)

23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, **24** and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” **25** In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **26** For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. **29** For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. **30** That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. **31** But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

Remember the cross is the gateway to the second step of new life

A one legged table that is good for nothing except to be turned upside down with one really obtrusive leg sticking out. Theology that stops at the cross overemphasizes the Love of God for forgiveness, but fails to recognize the power of God for deliverance

There's No New Life Without The Tomb

The cross was not meant for us to continue our old life, but to have access to the tomb where the old life can be buried. The cross always leads us to the tomb.

Romans 6:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

6 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

We must remember that God will not, He cannot, bless sin.

THEY GAVE ME THE MIDDLE FINGER AT THE ALTAR

A good looking young adult couple recently approached me at an altar asking for a prophetic word of blessing regarding their relationship. Expecting me to just quickly bless them, they bowed their heads immediately. Without even seeking the Lord, I said, "Are you two sleeping together?" The look on their faces as their heads snapped up was priceless. They didn't even have to answer me. I said, "You are asking me to bless something that the Word of God has clearly already called sinful. You don't need a prophetic word. What you need to do is repent of your sins, stop sleeping together, separate, and then I'll pray God's blessings upon you." They marched out of that church faster than I could blink and gave me the middle finger on the way out the door.

Romans 6:4 New International Version (NIV)

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism **into death** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 8:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

8 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, **2** because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:12-13 New International Version (NIV)

12 Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. **13** For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you **put to death the misdeeds of the body**, you will live.

Colossians 3:5-9 New International Version (NIV)

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. **7** You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. **8** But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices

The tomb is all about not going back. Proverbs reminds us that...

Proverbs 26:11 New International Version (NIV)

11 As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.

Perhaps that is why Jesus spoke so harshly about dealing with sin... Cut it off... Deal harshly with it... Kill it...

Matthew 5:30 New International Version (NIV)

30 And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.

So on this resurrection Sunday let's put the second leg on our table as we take a moment to write down those things that we want to put to death by the power of the Spirit of God. With prayer let's bury them in the tomb and seal it never to be opened again.

VIDEO:

What if I fail? Then we go back to the Cross, repent of our sins, ask for forgiveness and ask God to help us put that thing to death.

Two Resurrection Truths to Remember This Easter

By Steve Gallagher

You Need to Know that Jesus Christ Broke the Power of the Enemy on the Cross.

You Need to be Reminded that Failure is Not Final.

So now that we have two legs on our table, we're done, RIGHT?

The problem with stopping at the tomb is a theology that requires constant work. Jesus didn't call us to a life of our own works, but to a life of faith in His Work. His work on the Cross, His work in putting to death the old life, and his work in the Resurrection.

There's No New Life Without The Resurrection

The third leg of our table focuses on the resurrection.

Acts 5:17-20 New International Version (NIV)

17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. **18** They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. **19** But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. **20** "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people all about this new life."

1 Corinthians 15:14, 20 New International Version (NIV)

14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Ephesians 4:22-24 New International Version (NIV)

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; **23** to be made new in the attitude of your minds; **24** and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

I am talking about filling our life with the things of Christ.

Matthew 12:43-45 New International Version (NIV)

43 “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. **44** Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left.’ When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. **45** Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.”

Ephesians 6:10-18 New International Version (NIV)

The Armor of God

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. **13** Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. **14** Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, **15** and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. **16** In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

Jesus is in the business if making things new, he makes making dead things live

At the tomb of Lazarus he raised him from the dead and then he said, take off his grave clothes... Instead of taking off the old and putting on the new, we want to walk around in our smelly old grave clothes. God has new garments of righteousness for you to wear. But you have to put them on.

Matthew 22:11-13 New International Version (NIV)

11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. **12** He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

For this third response I want us to write down something of the new life that you want to put on

3 legs - stable, useful , holds weight