

SERVING IN WORSHIP

April 9, 2023

Sunday Morning:

Call to Worship:

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

Barry Cary

Song Leader:

Larry Miller

First Prayer:

Doug Driver

Presentation/Lord's Table

Barry Cary

Servers:

Walter Culbreth **Austin Miller

Speaker:

Johnny Felker

Prayer & Announcements:

Barry Cary

Usher:

Dwight Mullett

Sunday Evening:

Call to Worship:

Luke 9: 57-62

Austin Miller

Song Leader:

Ralph Brown

First Prayer:

Larry Miller

Speaker:

Johnny Felker

Lord's Table:

Walter Culbreth

Prayer and Announcements:

Barry Cary

Usher:

Dwight Mullett

Prayer List and Announcements

Jeanette Aldridge was not feeling great yesterday. All the rain was making her feel bad. She is still doing OK overall.

Deborah Grigsby asked for our prayers last Sunday, as she feels she has not lived as she should. She thanks everyone for their prayers.

Fred Duggin reports he had a very bad spell of a-fib last Sunday after returning home from church. Elaine is failing again. Fred says he can get her to take her meds and drink the nutritional supplement, but she really doesn't want to eat. Her anxiety is crippling her. She started a new anti-anxiety med yesterday so Fred said it is too soon to tell if it will be effective.

Betty Travis is about the same. Pam says her BP drops very low when she is in an upright position. Otherwise she is doing about the same. If she remains stable plans are to try to move her home at the beginning of May.

Shirley Ford was dealing with a lot of pain Saturday, as the wet weather makes her joints swell and causes more pain. She is to see her doctor this Monday for an injection that promises to relieve some of her pain, though it may take up to two weeks to reach full effectiveness. The doctors hope to schedule her for surgery on the 18th for her right hip replacement.

Mark Claypool's mother, Sibyl Claypool, is declining, and Hospice is now working with Mark's sister to help in caregiving.

We are pleased to announce that **Michael Schutt** was baptized last Sunday evening. He has been bring brother Bill Young to services for the past few weeks.

****Let us continue to Remember in Prayer****

Chelsea Gilliam (friend of Betty Copley), Paige Toxey, Susie Martell & Allison Barton, Neal Smith, and Dalton Gregory.

Birthdays:

12th: Fred Duggin

ELDERS: Johnny Felker & Doug Driver

DEACONS: Ralph Brown & Mark Claypool

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

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*"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24*

April 9, 2023

Resurrection and the First Day of the Week

Doy Moyer

One of the great reasons we gather on the first day of the week is in honor of our resurrected Lord. We gather to take the Lord's Supper, which does commemorate His death, but it is more than that. He was raised again, and this gives meaning to His death that could not otherwise be seen. Death could not have the final word. God defeated it through Christ. The first day gathering is not arbitrary, but full of meaning for a number of reasons. Here we wish to focus briefly on why the resurrection is front and center:

1. The Day of Christ's Resurrection was the first day of the week. "Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came early to the tomb, while it was still dark, and saw the stone already taken away from the tomb" (John 20:1).

This fact alone should make us think of the importance of this day as the Lord's Day. This is one of the reasons we meet on this day to celebrate His death and resurrection. Jesus didn't just die, and if that's all that happened, we have no traction for our faith. Paul indicates this in 1 Corinthians 15:12-19. The first day of the week was the day that victory was declared, the devil was defeated, and God's people arose from the dust of the slavery of sin and death.

In Psalm 2, the anointed king of Yahweh is brought forth as a response to those who wanted to cast off God's fetters: "He said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You'" (vs. 7). Paul quotes this and applies it to the resurrection of Jesus in Acts 13:32-33: "And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'You are MY Son; today I have begotten You.'"

**"Your lovingkindness, Oh Lord, extends to the heavens,
Your faithfulness reaches to the skies." Psalm 36: 5**

The “Sign” of the Resurrection

The resurrection is a sign that attests to Jesus' claims.

* * * *

He has authority over the w_____ of God.

“Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will r_____ it up.”” (John 2:19)

He is the good s_____ of OT prophecy.

“For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may t_____ it again.” (John 10:17–18; see also Eze. 34:23)

He is the unique S____ of God.

“For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives l_____ to whom He wishes.” (John 5:21, see also v. 24, 28-29)

He is the p_____ of the new covenant.

“...for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the h_____ of the e_____.” (Matthew 12:40; see also Deut. 18:18; Heb. 1:1-2)

He is the promised k_____ of Israel.

“This Jesus God r_____ up again, to which we are all witnesses.” (Acts 2:29–32)

He is the h_____ p_____ of the new Israel, our great high priest.

Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He a_____ l_____ to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:23–25; see also 10:19-22)

These are not merely intellectual facts to be believed, but truths to be lived. Do you acknowledge the authority of Jesus over your worship? Is He your good shepherd? Have you confessed Him as the Son of God? Do you listen to His word? Is He your reigning king and high priest? Do you have the hope of eternal life through Him?

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The resurrection was God's proclamation of victory, of Christ's kingship over all (1 Pet 3:18-21). He “was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,” and “declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord” (Rom. 1:3-4). This proclamation was made on the first day of the week when our Lord arose.

This day, then, should remind us of the power of God, which is that “strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named” (Eph. 1:19-21). Though we remember His death, we also cannot think of His death without knowing that death wasn't all there was. We do this “until He comes,” which tells us that He is alive, raised, and coming again.

2. As a pointer to the resurrection, the Feast of First fruits is connected. Here is something else about the timing of the resurrection that contains great significance. Due to the time of the year and the connection to the Passover, then later Pentecost, the day of the resurrection of Jesus was connected to the Feast of First fruits (Lev. 23:9ff; another was Pentecost, Num 28:26, also filled with meaning). The “the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest” was to be waved before the Lord the day after the Passover Sabbath. This was to be done when they entered the land and they begin to reap the first fruits of the harvest, which would demonstrate their reliance on God who brought them into the land and show their thankfulness.

Paul references this in speaking about the resurrection Christ: “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep” (1 Cor 15:20). Paul also said that Christ our Passover has been sacrificed (1 Cor 5:7). Notice the typology appealed to here based on the timing of the events—Christ is sacrificed as our Passover lamb who takes away the sins of the world, and raised up as first fruits to God. This leads to the harvest on Pentecost.

That first harvest was an indicator of a greater harvest yet to come (the Feast of Weeks). In our case, Christ as our first fruits is the guarantee of the greater harvest of God's people who would also be raised from the dead. This is the argument Paul is making in 1 Corinthians 15. Because Christ was raised, we will be raised.

When we gather on the first day of the week, we ought to think of Christ's death and resurrection, and we ought to think of the first fruits harvest. Consequently, we are offering up to God our sacrifice of praise, showing our faith that we, too, will follow in the resurrection of our Lord.

(Vestavia Church of Christ, April 4, 2023)