**Easter Sunday April 17, 2022**

Christ’s Resurrection is **Good News** 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

* Every person has a problem **called sin**
  + We disobey God intentionally by our words, thoughts, actions, and even in things that we fail to do that God asks us to do
  + Because of sin, death came to the world, first through Adam and ultimately to all mankind
* Those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by grace through faith are **saved**
  + To be saved means to be rescued from the penalty of eternal and conscious punishment from sin
  + Every person must place their own faith in Jesus Christ alone

Jesus died in the place of **mankind** 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

* He is our **substitute** (“wages of sin is death”)
* He took on the sin of all who will believe in Him
* He gave His life in death so that eternal life can come to all by faith
* To fulfill the Old Testament Scriptures
  + Isaiah 53:5–6, “5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”
* Jesus was placed in a rock-hewn tomb where His body lay dead from Good Friday until His resurrection
  + His death was assured by the Roman centurion
  + His death was witnessed by His followers
  + A careful guard was placed at His tomb to ensure His body was not stolen
* Jesus arose early on Sunday morning following His death
  + He appeared to the women at the tomb (Matthew 28:1-8)
  + He appeared to two other witnesses (Luke 24:13-35)
  + He appeared to Cephas (Peter) and the Twelve   
    (John 20:19-29)
  + He appeared to over 500 other Christians
  + He appeared to James (Jesus’ biological half-brother)
  + He appeared to the apostle Paul (Acts 9:1-19)

From Skeptic to Apostle 1 Corinthians 15:9-11

* The apostle Paul was a **hater of Christians**
  + He acted in approval of the stoning of Stephen, one of the early church deacons (see Acts 6 – 8:1)
  + He persecuted Christians and acted in concert with the Jewish leaders to try to exterminate all followers of Jesus (See Acts 9)
  + He found compelling evidence for the resurrection of Jesus and became a Christ follower, writing 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament

The Meaning of the Resurrection 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

* Jesus was the **first to rise again** from the dead
  + “first fruits” mean the first of many to follow
  + All other followers of Jesus Christ will one day, rise again, following Him to eternal reward in heaven

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