ONE: United In Christ

Pastor Mark Jeschke – 8.20.17

THE KING'S

GOOD NEWS

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11 (ESV)

Now I would remind you, brothers, of <u>the gospel</u> I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

WAS CHRIST RAISED?

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. 4 Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, 7 and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes. (John 20:1-10)

Four Possible Explanations of the Empty Tomb:

1.	THE GRAVE WAS <u>ROBBED</u>
2.	JESUS WAS <u>RESUSCITATED</u>
3.	HISTORY WAS <u>REWRITTEN</u>
4.	CHRIST IS <u>RISEN</u> IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCRIPTURES

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WHY DOES IT MATTER?

THE RESURRECTION ASSURES AND SECURES OUR PAST AND FUTURE SALVATION

8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the <u>grace</u> of God I am what I am, and <u>his grace toward me</u> was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the <u>grace</u> of God that is with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. (1 Corinthians 15:8-11)

The message of the resurrection is that this world matters! That the injustices and pains of this present world must now be addressed with the news that healing, justice, and love have won...If Easter means Jesus Christ is only raised in a spiritual sense – [then] it is only about me, and finding a new dimension in my spiritual life. But if Jesus Christ is truly risen from the dead, Christianity becomes good news for the whole world – News which warms are hearts precisely because it isn't just about warming hearts. Easter means that in a world where injustice, violence, and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things – and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement victory of Jesus over them all.

(N.T. Wright)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:					

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