



18 April 2025

## *Resurrection . . . Restoration*

Easter overflows with joy-giving truth. Jesus is risen!  
He is alive, He conquered death!

The physical resurrection of Jesus is indispensable to the Christian faith. Most of us are well aware of this, and celebrate it. The apostle Paul stated it so clearly and concisely,

“if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, your faith also is in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:14)

Jesus’ resurrection will be celebrated all around the world this Sunday. There are so many facets of this that we cannot exhaust them. In our church this Easter we will look at Christ’s resurrection bringing us a time of hope, a season of renewal and a reason to rejoice. Today I want you to think with me about another facet, *restoration*. Jesus’ resurrection brings restoration.

We know about restoration, bringing something back to what it once was, or to its original state. The largest environmental restoration project is the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan in Florida which was launched in 2000 and will take around 35 years to complete at a cost of over \$10 Billion. The goal is to restore, preserve, and protect the south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region. That’s a huge project.

But it is neither the biggest nor the most important. That distinction goes to God restoring people to what He created them to be through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God created Adam and Eve without any flaws, and placed them in the garden in the world He created without flaws. We know the history. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they sinned, and plunged not only themselves but the world into rebellion, sin and devastation. Recall the apostle Paul’s summary of the condition.

“the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.”

(Romans 8:20-22)

*Behold,  
I am making all things  
New*  
Revelation 21:5

Just as God's creation work was perfect, so is His restoration work. We experience much of that now, since we placed our faith in Christ. Prior to that we were "separate from Christ ... and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12). We were "enemies" of God (Romans 5:10) and so were without hope as well as without God (Ephesians 2:12). Only by God's grace through the death and resurrection of Christ could we be restored to life and fellowship with God.

While this restoration here and now is wonderful beyond words, there is more to come! Going back to Romans chapter 8, the apostle Paul reminds us that "we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body" (23). Yes, we know the struggles we have with our physical bodies, with relationships, with sin. God's restoration of His children will be complete when we come face to face with Christ in heaven. And then there is the time when God brings the new heaven and earth and makes "all things new" (Revelation 21:5). Our bodies, our character and the heavens and earth will be restored, free from any and all imperfections, flaws or weaknesses.

All of this comes to us because of the resurrection of Jesus. While we celebrate God making us new creations in Christ when we placed our faith in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17), there is more to come! Celebrate what you are now in Christ because of Easter. Celebrate what you will be when God's restoration is complete!

Pastor Lyle