

# Life Group Study

## Steve Gambill – Easter Sunday (12/04/20)



### Recap

In this exciting Easter message, Pastor Steve takes us through the joyful and hopeful good news of Jesus' resurrection, and how that has an impact in our lives today. Steve starts his preach on *John 20*, where a resurrected Jesus appears to his disciples. Even though the disciples were hidden in fear behind locked doors (full with worry about what would happen to them after Jesus was crucified), the presence of Jesus filled them with peace, joy and hope. As He met them in their lockdown, He can meet us in ours. He broke this down into 3 main points:

#### 1. Jesus came to conquer death for Himself... and for all of us!

We can see in *Revelation 1:18* that when Jesus died and rose again, He brought with Him the keys of Death. He died for everybody's sins, so He could take authority over Life and Death. Through Him, we can achieve everlasting Life – as one of God's loved children, we have a place in Heaven with Jesus and our Heavenly Father, we don't have to fear Death anymore.

#### 2. Jesus' resurrection can bring hope in your life again

*Philippians 3:10* asks us this question: We can know about Jesus, and even that He died for us. But do we truly know Him and the power of His resurrection? Because Jesus died for every one of us, He brought resurrection for every one of us as well. This resurrection power brings us hope. We can dream again, knowing that we have a purpose, that we were created to make a difference. In the same way the disciples, who were ordinary people, started to turn the world upside down after they saw Jesus resurrected, we too can step out and let that resurrection power flow from us. What is ordinary can become extraordinary through Jesus Christ. He is our ever-present help in time of need, and if we still don't know Him, His resurrection power is only a prayer away. Our circumstances can't stop what Jesus started on the cross.

#### 3. Jesus is the bridge to help you get to your new life

Bridges cover a chasm or a gap. In that same way, God had Jesus be that bridge - between Heaven and humanity. Jesus's sacrifice means we can have access to the presence of God permanently. We may have tried to have access through our good works, but unfortunately we still carry sin in our lives – things we regret to have done. Jesus knows us completely and still He paid the price in the cross for all our mistakes and all our sins, so we could be free from the shackles of Death and could have unfiltered access to the Father! We can walk in Jesus' triumph over Death today. However, the point of knowing Jesus is not just going to heaven. Knowing Jesus and His resurrection power means that we can have a full life today, full of enjoyment and faith. We still don't have a perfect life, but we live with a perfect love, that casts out all fear. We can see this fully explained to us in *1 Corinthians 15*.

Death will come for all of us at one point. However, Jesus' resurrection power is 100% guaranteed for those that believe in Him and His sacrifice. So, how can we have access to this ever-lasting life that comes from Jesus Christ? As he closes his preach, Pastor Steve answers this in 4 simple points:

#### 1. Stop Dying!

We have to ask for help. And the help we need is in Jesus Christ. Our pride can stop us from receiving that help, but we have to understand that without help, we will die. *John 11:25-26* shows us that without Jesus standing in the gap, we can't have access to a full and ever-lasting life.

#### 2. Start Rebuilding

After we accept Jesus in our lives, rebuilding takes time. Jesus helps us go forward from where we are, but it isn't an instantaneous transformation – it is a process, where we walk alongside Him. Steve challenges us to decide to give a full year of our life to Jesus: serving Him, getting plugged in the local church and getting actively involved in church life. If we become intentional and not

accidental, what we'll receive will be an incredible growth, a life full of testimonies from God's faithfulness.

### 3. Stop Doubting

God has a plan for us. We can doubt that, and that's normal. But in the same way Jesus dealt with Thomas' doubt when He resurrected, He calls us close to Him so we can see that everything He has promised for us is true.

### 4. Start Living

We might have areas in our life that we are embarrassed about, or that we might not be having victory over. But to "start living" we need to address these areas and bring them to God. That will free us to start dreaming, hoping and believing again. It is possible that in our lockdown we discover that Jesus is the key holder not just for us to break out of this current crisis that we're in, but for us to discover eternal life and to walk in the power of His resurrection.



## Scripture

**John 20:1-5 (TPT)** Very early Sunday morning, before sunrise, Mary Magdalene made her way to the tomb. And when she arrived she discovered that the stone that sealed the entrance to the tomb was moved away! <sup>2</sup>So she went running as fast as she could to go tell Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. She told them, "They've taken the Lord's body from the tomb, and we don't know where he is!" <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple jumped up and ran to the tomb to go see for themselves. <sup>4</sup>They started out together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He didn't enter the tomb, but peeked in, and saw only the linen cloths lying there.

**John 20:18-21 (TPT)** Then Mary Magdalene left to inform the disciples of her encounter with Jesus. "I have seen the Lord!" she told them. And she gave them his message. <sup>19</sup>That evening, the disciples gathered together. And because they were afraid of reprisals from the Jewish leaders, they had locked the doors to the place where they met. But suddenly Jesus appeared among them and said, "Peace to you!" <sup>20</sup>Then he showed them the wounds of his hands and his side—they were overjoyed to see the Lord with their own eyes!

**Revelation 1:18 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup>I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

**Philippians 3:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

**1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (TPT)** Dear friends, let me give you clearly the heart of the gospel that I've preached to you—the good news that you have heartily received and on which you stand. <sup>2</sup>For it is through the revelation of the gospel that you are being saved, if you fasten your life firmly to the message I've taught you, unless you have believed in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I have shared with you what I have received and what is of utmost importance: The Messiah died for our sins, fulfilling the prophecies of the Scriptures. <sup>4</sup>He was buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead after three days, as foretold in the Scriptures.

**1 Corinthians 15:35;54-55 (TPT)** <sup>35</sup>I can almost hear someone saying, "How can the dead come back to life? And what kind of body will they have when they are resurrected?" <sup>54</sup>Death is swallowed up by a triumphant victory! <sup>55</sup>So death, tell me, where is your victory? Tell me death, where is your sting? <sup>56</sup>It is sin that gives death its sting and the law that gives sin its power. <sup>57</sup>But we thank God for giving us the victory as conquerors through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One.

**John 11:25-26 (NIV)** <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



## **Questions**

1. Have you met the power of Jesus' resurrection throughout your life? If yes, how?
2. What are you grateful for, this Easter?
3. Are there any areas in your life that need the power of Jesus' resurrection right now?



## **Prayer**

Areas that we should pray over include:

1. Thank Jesus for His love and His sacrifice on the cross.
2. Pray for God to help you see others with that same love that led Him to give His only son for the salvation of humanity.
3. Pray for God to lead you this next week to someone that needs to know the gospel of Jesus.