

The Power of the Empty Tomb

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – March 27, 2016 (Easter)

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 12-20

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9-II... 12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The empty tomb proves...

1. JESUS IS WHO HE CLAIMED TO BE

John 10:30

“I and the Father are one.”

2. JESUS HAS THE POWER HE CLAIMED TO HAVE

John 10:18

“No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down and power to take it up again.”

Romans 1:4

[Jesus] was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.

3. JESUS DOES WHAT HE PROMISES TO DO

Matthew 28:5-6

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

4. YOUR PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN

Col 2:13-14

13 When you were dead in your sins... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

Romans 8:1

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

5. YOUR PROBLEMS CAN BE MANAGED

Rom 8:11

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through him who gives me strength.”

6. YOUR FUTURE CAN BE SECURE

John 11:25

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.