

Thought for Wednesday

April 8, 2009

Once again as you read this I am packing a moving truck to move my mother and her belongings to 'the Springs'. And wouldn't you know it – We're having Lake Effect snow!!!!!! What does a guy have to do to get away from this white stuff?!

Anyway, that's not what I want to talk to you about for a few moments – I want to talk to you about the upcoming weekend here at New Life. My vision of this weekend is a message entitled "*A Difference A Day Makes*" which will be presented in 3 parts...

- .. **Good Friday** – "*Silent Communion*" (a solemn, quiet time of reflection, prayer, meditation and taking of the Lord's Supper)
- .. **Saturday** – "*I Don't Understand*" (a look at the passion of Christ from the perspective of the disciples, hiding out of fear on the night before the resurrection)
- .. **Easter Sunday** – "*This Changes Everything*" (a simple look in of the greatest events in human history)

Easter is always a special time of year for most people, and as Christ-followers, it holds such special significance. Because let's face it, if **NOT** for the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, according to the apostle Paul we're hopeless!

"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? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 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. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." (1 Corinthians

15:12-19)

Truth is, we do have this hope, hope that one day, if Christ tarries in returning, we will be raised to new life just as Christ and will reign and live with Him forever! Easter is the celebration, as I've said before, of one of the two greatest events in human history.

I want to ask you to do several things as we look forward to this weekend...

- 1) Read the Passion and Resurrection passages (in each gospel and if possible, multiple translations)
- 2) Pray for someone who is not a Christ-follower (relative, friend, co-worker, student)
- 3) Invite and bring that person to the Easter Celebration on Sunday (as the gospel is presented)
- 4) Pray for me (that what God has laid on my heart, the Holy Spirit can use to reach someone's heart)

Be Strong, Be Courageous, Be Fearless – and remember...

Christ **IS** All!
Pastor Mark