

EASTER SUNDAY
1 Corinthian 15:1-11

On an Easter Sunday morning, there may be different groups of people sitting in church. First group is saying, "I believe in the resurrection because it warms my heart." Sure. But what if something else warms your heart more? A good movie or a song could warm our hearts any day. If you are in this group, you may be a romantic, not a believer. The second group is saying, "I am not sure I believe in the resurrection, but I am part of this great church tradition. And Jesus' teachings help me be a better person." This sounds like the elder brother in the Prodigal Son, faithful to family tradition but missing the point; so near yet so far; always home but have never arrived. Here is a good traditionalist, but not a believer. The third group says, "I have verified the evidence of the resurrection. I have experienced its power in my life. And by this power I am working hard and moving forward." The person in the third group is definitely a Christian like Paul.

(1) THE EVIDENCE. Our text today presents us with several strong evidences. **(a)** The Evidence from Scripture. Jesus said several times that he would rise on the third day. **(b)** There were more than 500 eye witnesses who encountered the risen Christ. **(c)** The empty tomb itself may not mean a lot without the actual physical appearance of the risen Christ. **(d)** The greatest evidence of the resurrection is the testimony of the life that had been transformed by the power of the resurrection. Paul's transformed life is one such.

(2) THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION AT WORK.

(a) One argument used against Jesus is that this "failed" Messiah promised to return with power before the present generation died. Jesus promised this in Mark 9:1, "...there are some standing here who will not die until they see the Kingdom of God (Son of Man) come with power..." Paul's answer is in Romans 1:3-4, "Jesus had already come with power in the resurrection." His Kingdom had already come in power, but many failed to see. **(b)** We need to be careful not to mix up the meanings of Pentecost and Resurrection. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was given only to the believers in Jerusalem, so that they may spread the Gospel throughout the world. But at the resurrection, something happened to the world. Total victory and power was won and had been declared to all the dark forces and systems of the world. This victory over the entire cosmos was so complete that Jesus could say, "...all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me". **(c)** Lazarus was raised only to die again. Jesus was raised bodily and is moving forward to a new kind of life, never to die again. This resurrection power was manifested in physical and material realities. Here is a key point: "What God did for Jesus in the resurrection, God is doing for the believer, the church and the world today. Our world is moving forward to a new kind of reality never to fade or perish" -Romans 8. **(e)** Power for personal transformation. Millions of lives had been changed through this one historical event that had remained unchanged for 2000 years.

(III) SO WHAT? How should I live in the light of the resurrection of Jesus? Believe it. Receive it. Preach it. Stand firm in it. And work hard at it. "It is love that believes in the resurrection" (Ludwig Wittgenstein.) Love is the highest form of knowing. The resurrection is the most complete form of events. And to believe is the most complete form of surrender and submission.

- Pastor Kedo Peseyie



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD
AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Kedo Peseyie
- Speaker : Rev. Zelhou Keyho
- Ushers : Aren Tzudir & Yanglirola Medikhrü
- Keyboard : Vizolenuo Solo
- Flower : Dr. Matsungla Angami

Call to Worship Praise & Worship

- Reading : Psalm 103: 1-18
- Mass Prayer

Announcement

Offertory

Hymn No.23 : To God be the Glory

Message

Hymn No.177 : Higher Ground

Benediction



VISION statement of the City Church:

City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.

AIMS of the City Church:

Worship: *To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.*

Fellowship: *To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.*

Evangelism: *To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God's great salvation.*

Discipleship: *To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.*

Mission: *To send out people in obedience to God's call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.*

NBCC Day of Prayer:

- Pray for Rev. Zelhou Keyho and his team, for wisdom and guidance that they may lead the Baptist Church in Nagaland to reflect the true beauty and power of the risen Christ.
- Pray for the different departments of NBCC and the department heads, that they may continue to lead the churches to extend the power of the Kingdom of God in Nagaland through different programs and activities.
- Pray for all the NBCC Staff for unity, health and providence from God.

PSALM 103: 1-18

Praise the LORD, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise His Holy name.
Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all His benefits
who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
The LORD works righteousness
and justice for all the oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
His deeds to the people of Israel:
The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
He will not always accuse,
nor will He harbor His anger forever;
He does not treat us as our sins deserve
or repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His love for those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
As a father has compassion on His children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him;
for He knows how we are formed,
He remembers that we are dust.
The life of mortals is like grass,
they flourish like a flower of the field;
the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.
But from everlasting to everlasting
the LORD's love is with those who fear Him,
and His righteousness with their children's children
with those who keep His covenant
and remember to obey His precepts.

INFORMATION

- Thursday Women Fellowship, 4:30pm at the EGF Hall: **Leader**– Ms. Juree, **Scripture Reading**– Mrs. Tolika Jimo & **Sharing**– Ms. Limanula Jamir.
- Enroute today at 3pm.
- Wednesday Bible study at 5pm.
- 24th April (Tue): **An Evening with Dr. Chris Kiesling**, (Professor of Practical Theology, Asbury Theological Seminary, USA), @ Hotel Japfu, 4pm-8pm.
- Baptism on 14th morning at 6am.
- City Church **Jumble Sales Day** in the month of May in aid of church building. (Date to be announced).

Sunday, April 1st, 2018

Tithes: ₹ 67,570
Offering: ₹ 22,552
Nagamese: ₹ 650
Mission: ₹ 3,000
Thanksgiving: ₹ 49,500
Building Fund: ₹ 1,41,000
Total: ₹ 2,84,272

