

**DSC Community Group**  
**Sermon Summary, 04/08/2012**

Title: "Raised with Christ"  
Series: Easter Sunday

Text: Ephesians 2:1-10  
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

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We believe that some astronauts landed on the moon in 1969, but that doesn't have a real affect on us. The resurrection is not that way, but more like the historical reality and affect of a wedding day. It's not just a neat memory or a big celebration, but a total game changer.

Scripture speaks of the significance of the resurrection in several ways:

- As confirmation: He rose to confirm his identity as the Messiah in order that people might believe.
- As Salvation: His death and Res form the basis for us being forgiven. Rom. 4:25, "[He] was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification."
- As victory: He rose to show that he was victorious over Satan, Sin, and Death.
- As hope for our crumbling bodies: Christ's resurrection was the first of many. After we die, when he brings in the New Heavens and New Earth, we will receive a body like his. Eternity will not be a disembodied, ethereal thing, but the perfection of the physical realm.

**1. The Bad News: Spiritual Death (1-3)**

- These three verses unfold the extent of our sin. We follow after Satan whether we know it or not, as those who are born in Adam. Even the good things we do we do for fleshly purposes and without respect to God. We're born under wrath and we don't have a problem with it. This is all of us.

**2. The Good News: Spiritual Resurrection (4-6)**

- "But God...": God intervened. The healing miracles in the gospels are like word pictures illustrating our spiritual need and God's intervention (e.g. blind, deaf, lame, leprosy). It was not enough for Christ to come down from heaven to earth, to lead us from earth to heaven. He had to go all the way into the grave to get us.
- We are raised to another realm: The realm-transferring effect of the resurrection reminds us of the opening lines of the other "realms" in, for example, The Twilight Zone, The Matrix, or Narnia.
- Other verses that speak to our spiritual resurrection: Romans 6:4; 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17; Ephesians 1:3; Ephesians 5:14; Colossians 2:12; Colossians 3:1-3; 1 Peter 1:3.
- The Christian life is a life of seeing things through the reality of Christ's resurrection and ours. Our view of everything changes: money, work, history, appearance, meals, marriage, beauty, failure, sex, exercise, age, doubts, children, government, pain, learning, aesthetics, etc.
- Tim Keller: "To the extent that that future is real to you, it will change everything about how you live in the present. For example, why is it so hard to face suffering? . . . Why is it so hard to do the right thing if you know it's going to cost you money, reputation, maybe even your life? Why is it so hard to face your own death or the death of loved ones? It's so hard because we think this broken world is the only world we're ever going to have. It's easy to feel as if this money is the only wealth we'll ever have, as if this body is the only body we'll ever have. But if Jesus is risen, then your future is so much more beautiful, and so much more certain than that.

**3. The Results:**

- Grace Displayed (7-9a)
- God Glorified (9b)
- A New Creation (10). NT Wright: "The resurrection of Jesus offers itself...not as an odd event within the world as it is, but as a prototypical and foundational event within the world as it has begun to be. It is not an absurd event within the old world, but the symbol and starting point of the new world."

**Sample Questions**

- Can you recall when, after becoming a Christian, you experienced a total change in your thinking on a specific question or issue or part of life?
- Ryan said that our spiritual resurrection is a largely neglected topic. How have you seen this to be true?
- How does our heavenly orientation and even existence bear our evangelism?
- How should a verse like Colossians 2:12 come to bear on your life in a specific area this week?