

March 27, 2016

THE LAST WORD

TEXT: 1st CORINTHIANS 15:19-26 (PEW BIBLE PG:1790)

We have this need to get in the last word, but often times the last word gets us.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION

Easter morning is proof that all those things that we thought might have the last word in our lives; don't have the last word at all. And it's all because of the resurrection.

The physical resurrection is a foundational doctrine for the Christian because of what it means. It means first of all, that Jesus is who he claimed to be.

The resurrection also means that there is nothing in this world whose power is greater than the power of Jesus Christ. Not even death can hold him.

The resurrection changes everything, because it changes who really gets the last word.

Three "last words" that turn out to be not nearly so "last" after all and it's all because of Easter. Ref: 1st Corinthians 15:19

1. Easter means that our _____ don't get the last word.

Paul is saying that living the Christian life involves an investment now that does not fully pay off until we enter into eternal life.

Every day of perseverance is an investment in the future that God has planned for you, not only further down the road in this life, but light years down the road, in your eternal future.

2. Easter means that _____ doesn't get the last word. Ref: 1st Cor. 15:21, 22

The resurrection of Jesus Christ reversed the curse that Adam brought on the human race through his disobedience in the garden. We have all made the same choice that Adam made. Ref: Isa. 53:6 KJV; Romans 3:10, 23 KJV

This is the human dilemma that none can escape. We have all sinned, and we have all been broken by our sin. And every life bears the evidence of that brokenness. Ref: Isaiah 53:6 KJV

Through his death on the cross, Jesus destroyed the *penalty* of sin. Through his resurrection he destroyed the *power* of sin. Ref: John 1:29 ESV; Romans 6:14

God forgives you of your sins, and then he starts you on the path to victory. You can experience increasing levels of victory in this life, and you will experience ultimate victory in the life to come.

3. Easter means that no _____ will ever get the last word. Ref: 1st Cor. 15:25, 26

Our promise is that when this life is over — and in spite of all, we know that it's a good life — but our promise is that when this good life ends, a better life begins. A resurrected life. A life of eternal peace and joy in the presence of God. Ref: 1st Cor. 2:9 KJV; Rev; 21:4 ESV