

He has Risen! He has risen indeed!

Main point; **look and believe!**

### **Intro**

I call the weather in Reno, Nv, where we used to live, Bipolar. Not to minimize the disorder, but to relate, in that it had extreme changes. One winter week around the holidays it was sunny and then... **(Show picture)** we woke up to 3ft. of snow.

-Mom disappearing in the snow.

So when we complain that it goes from the mid 80's to the 60's this week, it just confirms how spoiled we really are!

I liken the Christian life to Reno weather. It's Bipolar. It's abundant in its emotion. I do not mean unstable or confusing, but it does vary. On one hand, we deeply mourn our sin, like we did a few weeks ago. Feeling the agony that it was my sin that Jesus died for. When we look to the cross, it is a proper response.

**"It is not the absence of sin but the grieving over it which distinguishes the child of God from empty professors." Arthur Pink**

Mourning our sin, being honest with our depravity; fear, shame & guilt, staring straight into the abyss of my own vain existence, lack of purpose, and my pride and self sufficiency that tries to cover the black hole of my own soul, **Look and believe!**

Yet, in the same moment, rejoicing that I have been forgiven, set free, justified before a holy God, given peace & purpose that fills that black

hole so abundantly that my pride and self-sufficient tendencies burn away. So we can say with authority...

to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. Ephesians 1:6-10

### **Look and believe!**

This is often interpreted as a one time thing. "Yes, Pastor, what you are speaking of is my conversion; but once that happens, is it not happy trials 'til the end?"

Apostle Paul. Mature Christian? Yet he writes Romans 7, where he affirms the crazy bipolar abundance of the Christian life, AS A CHRISTIAN. "The things I want to do, I don't do"

Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?  
Romans 7:24

But then, 2 verses later pens, in my experience, one of the most quoted scriptures out there in our response to sin.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

So which is it? Wretched & condemned or in Christ & free? YES. We live and preach the Gospel daily, hourly, by the minute, to our souls, because it is the only way to be truly free!

We do not have to pretend to have all our ducks in a row. We can face the abyss of our vain existence, the deep darkness of the black hole I created by my sin, acknowledge it, yep, that's not good... look to the cross and mourn the fact that we have NOT lived into our God given purpose, and then with the freedom and unearned, undeserved grace we have been given through the cross of Jesus, shine light into darkness, stand up and with each new day filled with mercy, live to the glory of God and my joy! And the exclamation point to it all, the truth that we can hang our hope on, never given in to despair. What makes this true...

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;  
2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Is this... He has Risen! He has risen indeed! **Look and believe!**

**Read Vs. 1**, Matthew's account tells us that there were guards keeping watch, but after an earthquake, an angel who appeared as lightening showed up and all the soldiers flee in fear. Then here comes Mary, along with others according to the other Gospels, and they come to a stone removed and an empty tomb.

**Read vs. 2-10**. Exposit focusing on John "saw and believed".

-John outruns Peter, Peter pushes his way through.

-I wish we could be more like prosperity Gospel people.

-Explain and correct what we have faith in.

### **Look and believe!**

The bible says we have been born again. That we died with Christ, that sin no longer has dominion over us, and we no longer live *IN* Christ. He is our life! We have the Spirit of God, we are children of God, we are a new creation, the old has passed, the new has come! Do you Believe? How about tomorrow? , Etc.

What about when you have a dark season of the soul. The walk isn't as easy as the talk? Do you still believe?

-It's time to start using our will! When was the last time you prayed, "I will".

-"Jesus, take the wheel" vs. responsible in Christ.

-John saw and believed. It's time for us to **look and believe!**

**Read vs. 11-18, Exposit with a focus on my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.**

**Christ reveals himself. He does the same to us. He reveals himself. How many times do you hear the Gospel before you believed it? God does something to open our eyes so we can **Look and believe!****

We can look at our sin and grieve it, be bold in the black hole of darkness of soul, face our eternal abyss of sin BUT not stay there, because Christ rose and defeated it, so we preach the full Gospel to ourselves. Not just one side, all our victory, because we have not arrived.

-Sanctification, revealing light in dark places.

Testify "Do not forget who you are"

May we **Look and believe**