



**The Courageous Resurrection
That Changed Everything
(Easter 2018)**

April 1, 2018

Big Question: What if you were free to start all over again?

Statement: Paul viewed the Christian life as a chance to start all over again.

- **2 Corinthians 5:17-19** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (NKJV)
- **Romans 6:4** When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; **when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.** (The Message Bible)
- **NOTE: Romans 6:3-4** Or do you not know that **as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?** 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (NKJV)

**I. The Resurrection That Changed Our Lives
(Romans 6:1-14, The Message Bible)**

1. He changed our address

- So what do we do? Keep on sinning so God can keep on forgiving? 2 I should hope not! If **we've left the country where sin is sovereign**, how can we still live in our old house there? 3 Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. **When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind;** when we came up out of the water, **we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!** That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means.

2. He nailed our sins to the cross

- 4 **When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus; when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.** 5 Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by our Father so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country. 6-7 Could it be any clearer? **Our old way of life was nailed to the cross with Christ,** a decisive end to that sin-miserable life—no longer at sin's every beck and call! What we believe is this:

3. He gave us a new language

- **8** If we get included in Christ's sin-conquering death, **we also get included in his life-saving resurrection.** 9 We know that when Jesus was raised from the dead it was a signal of the end of death-as-the-end. Never again will death have the last word. 10 When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us. **11 From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word.** You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did. 12 That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. 13 Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead! —into God's way of doing things. **14 Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.**



II. The Resurrection That Changed Our Behavior (Romans 6:15-22)

1. We now define freedom differently (*we believe that boundaries free us*)

- 15 So, since we're out from under the old tyranny, does that mean we can live any old way we want? **Since we're free in the freedom of God, can we do anything that comes to mind?** 16 Hardly. You know well enough from your own experience that **there are some acts of so-called freedom that destroy freedom.** Offer yourselves to sin, for instance, and it's your last free act. But offer yourselves to the ways of God and the freedom never quits. All your lives you've let sin tell you what to do.

2. We now listen to a new master (*Our actions are not based solely on what we feel*)

- 17 But thank God **you've started listening to a new master, 18 one whose commands set you free** to live openly in his freedom! 19 I'm using this freedom language because it's easy to picture. You can readily recall, can't you, how at one time **the more you did just what you felt like doing—not caring about others, not caring about God—the worse your life became** and the less freedom you had? And how much different is it now as you live in God's freedom, your lives healed and expansive in holiness? 20 **As long as you did what you felt like doing, ignoring God, you didn't have to bother with right thinking or right living,** or right anything for that matter.

3. We have now resolved two important questions (*these questions heal us and put our lives together*)

- 21 But do you call that a free life? **What did you get out of it?** Nothing you're proud of now. **Where did it get you? A dead end.** 22 But now that you've found you don't have to listen to sin tell you what to do, and have discovered **the delight of listening to God** telling you, **what a surprise! A whole, healed, put-together life right now, with more and more of life on the way!**

Two Important Questions:

1. What did you get out of it? Nothing you're proud of now (v21)
2. Where did it get you? A dead end (v22)

III. One Important Consequence of the Resurrection (A better quality of life) (Romans 6:23)

- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)
- Romans 6:23 Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death. But God's gift is real life, eternal life, **delivered by Jesus, our Master.** (The Message Bible)

Next Time:

New Series: Courageous Conversation About Your Life

1. A Courageous Look at the Past: "What did I miss and why did I miss it?" (April 8)
2. A Courageous Analysis of the Present: "What do I have right now in my life?" (April 15)
3. A Courageous look at the future: "What will happen to me?" (April 22)