

He Is Risen

Pastor Ken

April 5, 2026

Good morning, Bethel Life Center, Danice, and I want to tell you how much we love you. We pray for you. Also, Bethel family, thank you for your financial gifts that you give weekly to God-On line, text to give, mail in or drop off in black offering boxes in back. Thank you!

And why do so many of you trust God in your giving of tithes and offerings to provide for your needs? Pay your mortgage and medical bills? Give you raises at work? Make it possible to for you to give to God's kingdom? Why? Because...

All that I have comes from the loving hand of God.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1-NIV)

I give to God joyfully, because all I have comes from God.

My faith comes from God.

My family comes from God.

My future in heaven comes from God.

My marriage comes from God.

My mission in life comes from God.

My money comes from God.

I think you get the point. Every good and perfect gift comes from the loving hand of a giving God. *For God so loved that he gave... (John 3:16)*

We are in the book of John chapter 20.

I am excited about Easter because it gives an opportunity for a **resurrection reset**. A resurrection "redo." I have been thinking about the idea of a "resurrection reset." A new start. A fresh beginning. An opportunity to put my past, in the past. To put my sins, in my Sin bearer's (Jesus) possession and to start again. Who wants a resurrection reset? Raise your hands. Oh, many, many of you.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

Let's pray. Father, your word is truth and truth everlasting. And even more than a lie detector test, you really do know what is in our hearts and the secrets that we **keep** and the sins that we **commit**. Jesus give me the power to change, Holy Spirit give me the desire to change, heal my body and cleanse me from my sins. You alone can offer salvation in Christ to all who believe and ask. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Every time you write a date you are referring to the resurrection. Have you thought about this recently? Every date in history, including your birthday (mine is June 9) is dated in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every time you write a date, you are using Jesus as the focal point. AD, BC.

Or if you electronically sign, sign a document that is a contract, when you put the date down-April 5, 2026, you are doing this from the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ split time and history into AD and BC. Even the atheist and agnostic has to acknowledge this fact.

Do you know what an atheist puts on their headstone? All dressed up with no place to go.

Now, don't raise your hand, but has anybody ever taken a lie detector test, also called a polygraph test? No, no don't raise your hand. I just want to ask the question. Why Pastor, do you have some kind of device that you can place on the screens to tell if I am telling the truth? No, but I do want you to know what the test does.

The lie detector test, created in 1947 measures physical manifestations of invisible thoughts. It gives an emotional and cognitive reaction, which is recorded on a machine, as to the truthfulness of your thinking.

If you lie using this machine, your body and invisible thinking tell the truth. Your hands get sweaty or your breathing speeds up. This all happens because of your thinking. These machines are accurate about 70-90% of the time. Your true thoughts can be discovered not only by machines, but also by God's word. God's word is accurate 100% degree of accuracy. Let me show this to you.

*¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** (Hebrews 4:12-NIV)*

Did you catch that? As you are listening and learning from God's word today, God will help you to get to the heart of the matter. Why?

Because the heart of the matter, is the matter of the heart.

So, I commend you for opening up yourself to a kind of lie detector test, **the word of God.**

My prayer is that you will not fight or flee from God but allow God to show you the **real you.** And then show you how much you are loved by Jesus Christ and then go to work on making you like Jesus.

Perhaps you have never put Easter weekend into this kind of formula. Look at it with me in your notes.

Friday was a day of pain for Jesus, Saturday was a day of confusion for the disciples, and Sunday is a day of victory for YOU!

On Friday of Easter weekend, in 1st Century time, no person ever suffered like Jesus suffered. Some of you right now are in a day of pain and suffering. Struggling with depression, debt and disappointment.

No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

That is the bad, news, here is the good news-Sunday is the day of victory for YOU! Come on it is Easter, give a little shout out, for Jesus' resurrection.

It was early, it was empty, and it was EASTER!

Oh, we know it was. And Mary was crying and Mary was confused. ¹¹ *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. (John 20-NIV)*

Mary was anything but happy. The events we call Easter weekend were now coming to a close, in her eyes. Jesus is about to weep with Mary, so she can celebrate with him.

It is still dark, between 4:00am and 6:00am. It is quiet. Mary is alone. It is likely cold, outside and inside her heart, because the one she loved is gone. Jesus is dead. Mary knows this. Mary has come to the tomb, not see Jesus, but to see a lifeless corpse.

What would a lifeless Jesus, offer a hurting Mary? If you have never trusted Christ, then the best you have is a lifeless Jesus. Come on seeker, come on sinner, don't leave Jesus that way.

What could a lifeless savior have to offer? The body has begun to decay. The face is ashen and motionless. The smell of death has a distinct order.

Mary traces the soldiers' steps from a few hours earlier as she navigates the path to the tomb of Jesus. Really, it is the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Suddenly Mary gasps, the stone has been rolled away. She is stunned. She is shocked. She is speechless. What does Mary do?

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

She runs and tells Peter and John; Jesus body has been stolen. The resurrection of Jesus Christ caught Mary and the disciples by complete surprise. Stop! Think about this with me:

One day we will find that our resurrection will catch us by complete surprise. Why? Because your death is not a resting place; it is a transformation place. Look at the bottom of your notes, you will experience all of this in eternity and so much more-

- **There will be a resurrection celebration of marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**
- **There will be a resurrection crowning with rewards. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)**
- **There will be a resurrection canceling of sins. (Psalm 103:12)**

Mary and Mary and the disciples experienced shock because they found something they were not looking for - the sealed tomb with a 1000-pound stone **had been moved**.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (John 20-NIV)

As Max Lucado says, "the stone from the Saviors tomb was not moved so Jesus could get out, it was moved so we could get in."

You need to accept the fact that there is no way you can move the stone that is in front of your life. Only Jesus can open the way for your miracle:

...a miracle of healing is waiting behind a 1000-pound stone,

...a miracle of restoration in your relationships and marriage is about to experience seismic force and will shake your world leaving no doubt that God has intervened.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. (Matthew 28-NIV)

God's financial intervention is winging its way from heaven providing miraculous economic relief to the desperate.

It may be dark in the worst weekend of your life but follow the path to Jesus and you will discover a resurrected Savior ready to remove your 1000-pound burdens. And in many cases destroy your 1000-pound blockage.

Jesus moved close to Mary. So, close his breathing startled her. As she turns the tears and darkness cause her to assume it must be the gardener. Who else would be up so early?

Jesus own words pierce her confusion, “why are your crying?” Then Mary is startled by the Risen Savior’s first resurrected words, **Mary**. Spoken softly. Her tears dry up.

She stands face-to-face with Jesus.

Her reaction is worship-she calls his name and grabs his body. It is not often that you hear your name spoken by the eternal son of God-Risen Savior Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20-NIV)

That which Mary experienced is not limited to her. Those of us that are Christ followers will one day, to hear the voice of our Savior when he announces,

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23-NIV)

Not a once in a lifetime encounter but a, for all of eternity and all ages an encounter that we will enjoy with Jesus as he is awaiting you and me. Many more hugs await us. Many more conversations to enjoy! Many more knees to bow.

Mary was startled, but the disciples were hiding.

They traveled with him for 3 years. From Galilee to the Golan heights. From Jericho to Jerusalem. From Bethlehem to Bethsaida.

They ate meals and laughed. They stood and marveled at miracles. They were given power by Jesus to do miracles of their own in Jesus’ name. They argued over who was the greatest. They wanted to call down fire and incinerate the Samaritans.

Even the most basic of customs they overlooked. Jesus washed their feet. Jesus rebuked them. Jesus forgave their sins. Jesus loved them, even Judas to the end.

Each disciples had an encounter with Jesus. Now, ³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (Luke 24:37-NIV)*

Easter morning has now descended past sunset.

We have left the garden tomb, and we peak into the room where the disciples are hiding.

This hiding place also hid their guilt and shame from deserting. Now, they are trapped. Their future was uncertain. In their hearts are broken dreams.

Like Mary, they are only moments away from their own resurrection experience. Without a knock on the door, Jesus appears before the disciples. They are startled and shocked, and the only explanation is something other worldly-like a ghost.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20-NIV)

Wasting no time Jesus gets to the heart of the matter, the matter of the heart. It seems that fear, doubt and guilt have arrested each one and Jesus has come to set them free.

And Jesus has come today to set you free. One word, changes everything, "Peace." A sudden calm. A word of comfort that works faster than nitroglycerin. Immediate results follow.

Jesus will not let you hide. On Easter, He gives you His presence, provision and power.

Jesus had come for one reason, to prove the resurrection and to right size their mission. Now, Mary gets it. The disciples get it.

Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

In first century, times, the apostle Paul, near the end of his life, writes his final letter to a young man he loves like a son. His name is Timothy. Paul sees huge potential in his life.

Timothy has one little problem. Timothy is prone to fear. Prone to Timidity. Prone to Cowardice. His sincere faith in God stumbles when he faces a storm or trouble. He is strong in the storms of life for a while, until doubt and fear set in and then he starts to spiral down into a virtual slump. And then he has a hard time getting out of the **Timidity** hole.

Timothy has unbelievable potential, but he often spirals out of control because of fear.

Paul calls out Timothy and says, “this is your Achilles heel.” If you want to live for God, do great things for God, enjoy God’s favor and blessing, Timothy you must resolve the timidity and fear issue.

So, Paul writes these words to Timothy – ⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1 NLT)*

If I were to ask everyone here today, how many would say they live with a spirit of timidity? We sing songs about the love and power of God on Sunday, spend our 15 minutes in a chair, serve the poor in the community, but later we hit a rough patch and our faith falters.

Fear takes over. We start that slow spiral into the same slump that Timothy found himself in. I wonder how many? Truth be told we live with inordinate levels of fear. Timidity? I wonder how it limits us.

Please listen carefully: Jesus Christ defeated a far bigger foe than you will ever face!

Back to Timothy. Struggling with his Timidity and yet, knowing the stories of the disciples and the resurrection of his Lord, Paul offers hope.

So, the timidity pattern can be broken in his life, 3 verses later Paul pens one of the most impactful verses in all of the New Testament.

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10-NIV)

Jesus Christ has destroyed death. There is that word destroyed. Paul’s help to Timothy is also available to you today on resurrection Sunday. The word destroyed in the Greek is *katargeo*. To render inoperative. Useless. To annul. To nullify.

Think of other words that describe to nullify. You could spin it as abolish. Quash. Torpedo. Void. Stamp out. All bets are off. Blue pencil it. Render null and void.

Paul says to Timothy, “think of the most intimidating enemy the world has ever known. Is it a dictator or disease? Is it a plague or a person? What force in this world eventually defeats every human being? What enemy ultimately wins every time it puts its target on the back of a human being?”

The answer is death. That’s why every soul wonders, “what happens when we die?”

What happens when your candle goes out? Without life beyond the grave, then life before the grave makes no sense. Hitler and Billy Graham experience the same fate in the end. Extinction. No accountability for evil.

No reward for grace and goodness. No consciousness beyond the grave. No future. Just blackness forever. Christianity teaches that everyone is resurrected to a consciousness beyond the grave. To one of two future realities. To eternal life with God or eternal life separated from God.

It would be spiritual malpractice if I did not spell out these realities and make them blindingly clear. One place with Jesus and forgiveness of sins that destroyed death and offers eternal life and the other separated from Christ.

First, with Jesus Christ - this centers around the majesty and mercy of God. Redeemed followers enjoy God in heaven forever. All evil is catapulted into an eternal wasteland of separation from Christ and his followers.

Second, without Jesus Christ, this centers on an absence of God's presence, love, mercy, sins forgiven, and focuses solely on evil, rebellion, wickedness and death, hell and the grave.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2-NIV) God sends no one there. Those who end up in eternity away from Christ redemption and love are granted their request, God leave me alone. Stay away from life. Stay out of my life. God give you your request.

Avoid this place at all costs. All are resurrected to the future of their choosing. Death defeats everyone sooner or later. It always has and always will. It defeats the rich and poor. It defeats world leaders and obscure lovers. Death has been on a winning streak since rebellion has entered the human race back in the garden. No one defeats it.

Paul tells us and Timothy... **the one you follow, the one who died on a cross and rose again... the one who knows you, loves you, the one who redeemed you and adopted you, the one whose strong hand is holding your hand, every day, all day, that one, Jesus Christ, God's son, destroyed death.**

He didn't just land a good punch on its chin. He didn't just knock it down for an 8-count. He destroyed it. The translation is that he abolished it. He annihilated it.

Paul says to Timothy, on resurrection day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, Jesus demonstrated a supernatural and sovereign transcendent power which has never been witnessed before in all of history. And that same person, Jesus Christ, that is holding your hand, so wake Timothy, enough timidity.

Face your daily storms and trials with the help of the one that has destroyed a far bigger foe, than whatever you are dealing with. The argument from Paul was a game changer for Timothy and it can be for you too.

If you grab hold of God's resurrection mantra and brand today-The one I follow, has destroyed far larger foes than any opposition I am facing. **Jesus has destroyed a far bigger foe than I am facing today.**

I am convinced Pastor, what do I do? Believe and receive.

- **Believe** that God loves you. Christ died for you. Believe God has a plan for your life. Believe that through faith and with your sins forgiven, you can live forever in heaven with an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Receive** Jesus into your life and trust him with your future. **John 3:36** tells us, *"whoever accepts and trusts the son gets in on everything, life complete and forever."* (John 3:36-MSG)

In the end God won't ask you if you read your bible. If you went to church. Gave to the poor. God's only concern is did you have your sins forgiven by Jesus. Did you trust Jesus for everything?

If you say yes, you are ready to answer the question: **where will you spend eternity.** **Receiving** Jesus brings instant forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death is final and certain. Heaven is an eternal home prepared for you. Heaven has an address that will never change. But you will change. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last sound of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise and we will be changed.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I accept on this Easter that Jesus Christ was crucified for me and rose from the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection offer me forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

At this moment, I turn my life with all of its hurts, hangups and habits, my life with its sins, sickness and secrets over to Jesus Christ. I repent of and renounce my sinful life and receive my new life in Jesus Christ – washed, forgiven and heaven bound. I am now born again.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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Wasting no time Jesus gets to the heart of the matter, the matter of the heart. It seems that fear, doubt and guilt have arrested each one and Jesus has come to set them free.

And Jesus has come today to set you free. One word, changes everything, "Peace." A sudden calm. A word of comfort that works faster than nitroglycerin. Immediate results follow.

Jesus will not let you hide. On Easter, He gives you His presence, provision and power.

Jesus had come for one reason, to prove the resurrection and to right size their mission. Now, Mary gets it. The disciples get it.

Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

In first century, times, the apostle Paul, near the end of his life, writes his final letter to a young man he loves like a son. His name is Timothy. Paul sees huge potential in his life.

Timothy has one little problem. Timothy is prone to fear. Prone to Timidity. Prone to Cowardice. His sincere faith in God stumbles when he faces a storm or trouble. He is strong in the storms of life for a while, until doubt and fear set in and then he starts to spiral down into a virtual slump. And then he has a hard time getting out of the **Timidity** hole.

Timothy has unbelievable potential, but he often spirals out of control because of fear.

Paul calls out Timothy and says, “this is your Achilles heel.” If you want to live for God, do great things for God, enjoy God’s favor and blessing, Timothy you must resolve the timidity and fear issue.

So, Paul writes these words to Timothy – ⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1 NLT)*

If I were to ask everyone here today, how many would say they live with a spirit of timidity? We sing songs about the love and power of God on Sunday, spend our 15 minutes in a chair, serve the poor in the community, but later we hit a rough patch and our faith falters.

Fear takes over. We start that slow spiral into the same slump that Timothy found himself in. I wonder how many? Truth be told we live with inordinate levels of fear. Timidity? I wonder how it limits us.

Please listen carefully: Jesus Christ defeated a far bigger foe than you will ever face!

Back to Timothy. Struggling with his Timidity and yet, knowing the stories of the disciples and the resurrection of his Lord, Paul offers hope.

So, the timidity pattern can be broken in his life, 3 verses later Paul pens one of the most impactful verses in all of the New Testament.

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10-NIV)

Jesus Christ has destroyed death. There is that word destroyed. Paul’s help to Timothy is also available to you today on resurrection Sunday. The word destroyed in the Greek is *katargeo*. To render inoperative. Useless. To annul. To nullify.

Think of other words that describe to nullify. You could spin it as abolish. Quash. Torpedo. Void. Stamp out. All bets are off. Blue pencil it. Render null and void.

Paul says to Timothy, “think of the most intimidating enemy the world has ever known. Is it a dictator or disease? Is it a plague or a person? What force in this world eventually defeats every human being? What enemy ultimately wins every time it puts its target on the back of a human being?”

The answer is death. That’s why every soul wonders, “what happens when we die?”

What happens when your candle goes out? Without life beyond the grave, then life before the grave makes no sense. Hitler and Billy Graham experience the same fate in the end. Extinction. No accountability for evil.

No reward for grace and goodness. No consciousness beyond the grave. No future. Just blackness forever. Christianity teaches that everyone is resurrected to a consciousness beyond the grave. To one of two future realities. To eternal life with God or eternal life separated from God.

It would be spiritual malpractice if I did not spell out these realities and make them blindingly clear. One place with Jesus and forgiveness of sins that destroyed death and offers eternal life and the other separated from Christ.

First, with Jesus Christ - this centers around the majesty and mercy of God. Redeemed followers enjoy God in heaven forever. All evil is catapulted into an eternal wasteland of separation from Christ and his followers.

Second, without Jesus Christ, this centers on an absence of God's presence, love, mercy, sins forgiven, and focuses solely on evil, rebellion, wickedness and death, hell and the grave.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2-NIV) God sends no one there. Those who end up in eternity away from Christ redemption and love are granted their request, God leave me alone. Stay away from life. Stay out of my life. God give you your request.

Avoid this place at all costs. All are resurrected to the future of their choosing. Death defeats everyone sooner or later. It always has and always will. It defeats the rich and poor. It defeats world leaders and obscure lovers. Death has been on a winning streak since rebellion has entered the human race back in the garden. No one defeats it.

Paul tells us and Timothy... **the one you follow, the one who died on a cross and rose again... the one who knows you, loves you, the one who redeemed you and adopted you, the one whose strong hand is holding your hand, every day, all day, that one, Jesus Christ, God's son, destroyed death.**

He didn't just land a good punch on its chin. He didn't just knock it down for an 8-count. He destroyed it. The translation is that he abolished it. He annihilated it.

Paul says to Timothy, on resurrection day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, Jesus demonstrated a supernatural and sovereign transcendent power which has never been witnessed before in all of history. And that same person, Jesus Christ, that is holding your hand, so wake Timothy, enough timidity.

Face your daily storms and trials with the help of the one that has destroyed a far bigger foe, than whatever you are dealing with. The argument from Paul was a game changer for Timothy and it can be for you too.

If you grab hold of God's resurrection mantra and brand today-The one I follow, has destroyed far larger foes than any opposition I am facing. **Jesus has destroyed a far bigger foe than I am facing today.**

I am convinced Pastor, what do I do? Believe and receive.

- **Believe** that God loves you. Christ died for you. Believe God has a plan for your life. Believe that through faith and with your sins forgiven, you can live forever in heaven with an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Receive** Jesus into your life and trust him with your future. **John 3:36** tells us, *"whoever accepts and trusts the son gets in on everything, life complete and forever."* (John 3:36-MSG)

In the end God won't ask you if you read your bible. If you went to church. Gave to the poor. God's only concern is did you have your sins forgiven by Jesus. Did you trust Jesus for everything?

If you say yes, you are ready to answer the question: **where will you spend eternity.** **Receiving** Jesus brings instant forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death is final and certain. Heaven is an eternal home prepared for you. Heaven has an address that will never change. But you will change. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last sound of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise and we will be changed.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I accept on this Easter that Jesus Christ was crucified for me and rose from the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection offer me forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

At this moment, I turn my life with all of its hurts, hangups and habits, my life with its sins, sickness and secrets over to Jesus Christ. I repent of and renounce my sinful life and receive my new life in Jesus Christ – washed, forgiven and heaven bound. I am now born again.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

He Is Risen

Pastor Ken

April 5, 2026

Good morning, Bethel Life Center, Danice, and I want to tell you how much we love you. We pray for you. Also, Bethel family, thank you for your financial gifts that you give weekly to God-On line, text to give, mail in or drop off in black offering boxes in back. Thank you!

And why do so many of you trust God in your giving of tithes and offerings to provide for your needs? Pay your mortgage and medical bills? Give you raises at work? Make it possible to for you to give to God's kingdom? Why? Because...

All that I have comes from the loving hand of God.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1-NIV)

I give to God joyfully, because all I have comes from God.

My faith comes from God.

My family comes from God.

My future in heaven comes from God.

My marriage comes from God.

My mission in life comes from God.

My money comes from God.

I think you get the point. Every good and perfect gift comes from the loving hand of a giving God. *For God so loved that he gave... (John 3:16)*

We are in the book of John chapter 20.

I am excited about Easter because it gives an opportunity for a **resurrection reset**. A resurrection "redo." I have been thinking about the idea of a "resurrection reset." A new start. A fresh beginning. An opportunity to put my past, in the past. To put my sins, in my Sin bearer's (Jesus) possession and to start again. Who wants a resurrection reset? Raise your hands. Oh, many, many of you.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

Let's pray. Father, your word is truth and truth everlasting. And even more than a lie detector test, you really do know what is in our hearts and the secrets that we **keep** and the sins that we **commit**. Jesus give me the power to change, Holy Spirit give me the desire to change, heal my body and cleanse me from my sins. You alone can offer salvation in Christ to all who believe and ask. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Every time you write a date you are referring to the resurrection. Have you thought about this recently? Every date in history, including your birthday (mine is June 9) is dated in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every time you write a date, you are using Jesus as the focal point. AD, BC.

Or if you electronically sign, sign a document that is a contract, when you put the date down-April 5, 2026, you are doing this from the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ split time and history into AD and BC. Even the atheist and agnostic has to acknowledge this fact.

Do you know what an atheist puts on their headstone? All dressed up with no place to go.

Now, don't raise your hand, but has anybody ever taken a lie detector test, also called a polygraph test? No, no don't raise your hand. I just want to ask the question. Why Pastor, do you have some kind of device that you can place on the screens to tell if I am telling the truth? No, but I do want you to know what the test does.

The lie detector test, created in 1947 measures physical manifestations of invisible thoughts. It gives an emotional and cognitive reaction, which is recorded on a machine, as to the truthfulness of your thinking.

If you lie using this machine, your body and invisible thinking tell the truth. Your hands get sweaty or your breathing speeds up. This all happens because of your thinking. These machines are accurate about 70-90% of the time. Your true thoughts can be discovered not only by machines, but also by God's word. God's word is accurate 100% degree of accuracy. Let me show this to you.

*¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** (Hebrews 4:12-NIV)*

Did you catch that? As you are listening and learning from God's word today, God will help you to get to the heart of the matter. Why?

Because the heart of the matter, is the matter of the heart.

So, I commend you for opening up yourself to a kind of lie detector test, **the word of God.**

My prayer is that you will not fight or flee from God but allow God to show you the **real you.** And then show you how much you are loved by Jesus Christ and then go to work on making you like Jesus.

Perhaps you have never put Easter weekend into this kind of formula. Look at it with me in your notes.

Friday was a day of pain for Jesus, Saturday was a day of confusion for the disciples, and Sunday is a day of victory for YOU!

On Friday of Easter weekend, in 1st Century time, no person ever suffered like Jesus suffered. Some of you right now are in a day of pain and suffering. Struggling with depression, debt and disappointment.

No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

That is the bad, news, here is the good news-Sunday is the day of victory for YOU! Come on it is Easter, give a little shout out, for Jesus' resurrection.

It was early, it was empty, and it was EASTER!

Oh, we know it was. And Mary was crying and Mary was confused. ¹¹ *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. (John 20-NIV)*

Mary was anything but happy. The events we call Easter weekend were now coming to a close, in her eyes. Jesus is about to weep with Mary, so she can celebrate with him.

It is still dark, between 4:00am and 6:00am. It is quiet. Mary is alone. It is likely cold, outside and inside her heart, because the one she loved is gone. Jesus is dead. Mary knows this. Mary has come to the tomb, not see Jesus, but to see a lifeless corpse.

What would a lifeless Jesus, offer a hurting Mary? If you have never trusted Christ, then the best you have is a lifeless Jesus. Come on seeker, come on sinner, don't leave Jesus that way.

What could a lifeless savior have to offer? The body has begun to decay. The face is ashen and motionless. The smell of death has a distinct order.

Mary traces the soldiers' steps from a few hours earlier as she navigates the path to the tomb of Jesus. Really, it is the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Suddenly Mary gasps, the stone has been rolled away. She is stunned. She is shocked. She is speechless. What does Mary do?

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

She runs and tells Peter and John; Jesus body has been stolen. The resurrection of Jesus Christ caught Mary and the disciples by complete surprise. Stop! Think about this with me:

One day we will find that our resurrection will catch us by complete surprise. Why? Because your death is not a resting place; it is a transformation place. Look at the bottom of your notes, you will experience all of this in eternity and so much more-

- **There will be a resurrection celebration of marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**
- **There will be a resurrection crowning with rewards. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)**
- **There will be a resurrection canceling of sins. (Psalm 103:12)**

Mary and Mary and the disciples experienced shock because they found something they were not looking for - the sealed tomb with a 1000-pound stone **had been moved**.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (John 20-NIV)

As Max Lucado says, "the stone from the Saviors tomb was not moved so Jesus could get out, it was moved so we could get in."

You need to accept the fact that there is no way you can move the stone that is in front of your life. Only Jesus can open the way for your miracle:

...a miracle of healing is waiting behind a 1000-pound stone,

...a miracle of restoration in your relationships and marriage is about to experience seismic force and will shake your world leaving no doubt that God has intervened.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. (Matthew 28-NIV)

God's financial intervention is winging its way from heaven providing miraculous economic relief to the desperate.

It may be dark in the worst weekend of your life but follow the path to Jesus and you will discover a resurrected Savior ready to remove your 1000-pound burdens. And in many cases destroy your 1000-pound blockage.

Jesus moved close to Mary. So, close his breathing startled her. As she turns the tears and darkness cause her to assume it must be the gardener. Who else would be up so early?

Jesus own words pierce her confusion, “why are your crying?” Then Mary is startled by the Risen Savior’s first resurrected words, **Mary**. Spoken softly. Her tears dry up.

She stands face-to-face with Jesus.

Her reaction is worship-she calls his name and grabs his body. It is not often that you hear your name spoken by the eternal son of God-Risen Savior Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20-NIV)

That which Mary experienced is not limited to her. Those of us that are Christ followers will one day, to hear the voice of our Savior when he announces,

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23-NIV)

Not a once in a lifetime encounter but a, for all of eternity and all ages an encounter that we will enjoy with Jesus as he is awaiting you and me. Many more hugs await us. Many more conversations to enjoy! Many more knees to bow.

Mary was startled, but the disciples were hiding.

They traveled with him for 3 years. From Galilee to the Golan heights. From Jericho to Jerusalem. From Bethlehem to Bethsaida.

They ate meals and laughed. They stood and marveled at miracles. They were given power by Jesus to do miracles of their own in Jesus’ name. They argued over who was the greatest. They wanted to call down fire and incinerate the Samaritans.

Even the most basic of customs they overlooked. Jesus washed their feet. Jesus rebuked them. Jesus forgave their sins. Jesus loved them, even Judas to the end.

Each disciples had an encounter with Jesus. Now, ³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (Luke 24:37-NIV)*

Easter morning has now descended past sunset.

We have left the garden tomb, and we peak into the room where the disciples are hiding.

This hiding place also hid their guilt and shame from deserting. Now, they are trapped. Their future was uncertain. In their hearts are broken dreams.

Like Mary, they are only moments away from their own resurrection experience. Without a knock on the door, Jesus appears before the disciples. They are startled and shocked, and the only explanation is something other worldly-like a ghost.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20-NIV)

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Perhaps you have never put Easter weekend into this kind of formula. Look at it with me in your notes.

Friday was a day of pain for Jesus, Saturday was a day of confusion for the disciples, and Sunday is a day of victory for YOU!

On Friday of Easter weekend, in 1st Century time, no person ever suffered like Jesus suffered. Some of you right now are in a day of pain and suffering. Struggling with depression, debt and disappointment.

No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

That is the bad, news, here is the good news-Sunday is the day of victory for YOU! Come on it is Easter, give a little shout out, for Jesus' resurrection.

It was early, it was empty, and it was EASTER!

Oh, we know it was. And Mary was crying and Mary was confused. ¹¹ *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. (John 20-NIV)*

Mary was anything but happy. The events we call Easter weekend were now coming to a close, in her eyes. Jesus is about to weep with Mary, so she can celebrate with him.

It is still dark, between 4:00am and 6:00am. It is quiet. Mary is alone. It is likely cold, outside and inside her heart, because the one she loved is gone. Jesus is dead. Mary knows this. Mary has come to the tomb, not see Jesus, but to see a lifeless corpse.

What would a lifeless Jesus, offer a hurting Mary? If you have never trusted Christ, then the best you have is a lifeless Jesus. Come on seeker, come on sinner, don't leave Jesus that way.

What could a lifeless savior have to offer? The body has begun to decay. The face is ashen and motionless. The smell of death has a distinct order.

Mary traces the soldiers' steps from a few hours earlier as she navigates the path to the tomb of Jesus. Really, it is the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Suddenly Mary gasps, the stone has been rolled away. She is stunned. She is shocked. She is speechless. What does Mary do?

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

She runs and tells Peter and John; Jesus body has been stolen. The resurrection of Jesus Christ caught Mary and the disciples by complete surprise. Stop! Think about this with me:

One day we will find that our resurrection will catch us by complete surprise. Why? Because your death is not a resting place; it is a transformation place. Look at the bottom of your notes, you will experience all of this in eternity and so much more-

- **There will be a resurrection celebration of marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**
- **There will be a resurrection crowning with rewards. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)**
- **There will be a resurrection canceling of sins. (Psalm 103:12)**

Mary and Mary and the disciples experienced shock because they found something they were not looking for - the sealed tomb with a 1000-pound stone **had been moved**.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (John 20-NIV)

As Max Lucado says, "the stone from the Saviors tomb was not moved so Jesus could get out, it was moved so we could get in."

You need to accept the fact that there is no way you can move the stone that is in front of your life. Only Jesus can open the way for your miracle:

...a miracle of healing is waiting behind a 1000-pound stone,

...a miracle of restoration in your relationships and marriage is about to experience seismic force and will shake your world leaving no doubt that God has intervened.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. (Matthew 28-NIV)

God's financial intervention is winging its way from heaven providing miraculous economic relief to the desperate.

It may be dark in the worst weekend of your life but follow the path to Jesus and you will discover a resurrected Savior ready to remove your 1000-pound burdens. And in many cases destroy your 1000-pound blockage.

Jesus moved close to Mary. So, close his breathing startled her. As she turns the tears and darkness cause her to assume it must be the gardener. Who else would be up so early?

Jesus own words pierce her confusion, “why are your crying?” Then Mary is startled by the Risen Savior’s first resurrected words, **Mary**. Spoken softly. Her tears dry up.

She stands face-to-face with Jesus.

Her reaction is worship-she calls his name and grabs his body. It is not often that you hear your name spoken by the eternal son of God-Risen Savior Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20-NIV)

That which Mary experienced is not limited to her. Those of us that are Christ followers will one day, to hear the voice of our Savior when he announces,

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23-NIV)

Not a once in a lifetime encounter but a, for all of eternity and all ages an encounter that we will enjoy with Jesus as he is awaiting you and me. Many more hugs await us. Many more conversations to enjoy! Many more knees to bow.

Mary was startled, but the disciples were hiding.

They traveled with him for 3 years. From Galilee to the Golan heights. From Jericho to Jerusalem. From Bethlehem to Bethsaida.

They ate meals and laughed. They stood and marveled at miracles. They were given power by Jesus to do miracles of their own in Jesus’ name. They argued over who was the greatest. They wanted to call down fire and incinerate the Samaritans.

Even the most basic of customs they overlooked. Jesus washed their feet. Jesus rebuked them. Jesus forgave their sins. Jesus loved them, even Judas to the end.

Each disciples had an encounter with Jesus. Now, ³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (Luke 24:37-NIV)*

Easter morning has now descended past sunset.

We have left the garden tomb, and we peak into the room where the disciples are hiding.

This hiding place also hid their guilt and shame from deserting. Now, they are trapped. Their future was uncertain. In their hearts are broken dreams.

Like Mary, they are only moments away from their own resurrection experience. Without a knock on the door, Jesus appears before the disciples. They are startled and shocked, and the only explanation is something other worldly-like a ghost.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20-NIV)

Wasting no time Jesus gets to the heart of the matter, the matter of the heart. It seems that fear, doubt and guilt have arrested each one and Jesus has come to set them free.

And Jesus has come today to set you free. One word, changes everything, "Peace." A sudden calm. A word of comfort that works faster than nitroglycerin. Immediate results follow.

Jesus will not let you hide. On Easter, He gives you His presence, provision and power.

Jesus had come for one reason, to prove the resurrection and to right size their mission. Now, Mary gets it. The disciples get it.

Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

In first century, times, the apostle Paul, near the end of his life, writes his final letter to a young man he loves like a son. His name is Timothy. Paul sees huge potential in his life.

Timothy has one little problem. Timothy is prone to fear. Prone to Timidity. Prone to Cowardice. His sincere faith in God stumbles when he faces a storm or trouble. He is strong in the storms of life for a while, until doubt and fear set in and then he starts to spiral down into a virtual slump. And then he has a hard time getting out of the **Timidity** hole.

Timothy has unbelievable potential, but he often spirals out of control because of fear.

Paul calls out Timothy and says, “this is your Achilles heel.” If you want to live for God, do great things for God, enjoy God’s favor and blessing, Timothy you must resolve the timidity and fear issue.

So, Paul writes these words to Timothy – ⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1 NLT)*

If I were to ask everyone here today, how many would say they live with a spirit of timidity? We sing songs about the love and power of God on Sunday, spend our 15 minutes in a chair, serve the poor in the community, but later we hit a rough patch and our faith falters.

Fear takes over. We start that slow spiral into the same slump that Timothy found himself in. I wonder how many? Truth be told we live with inordinate levels of fear. Timidity? I wonder how it limits us.

Please listen carefully: Jesus Christ defeated a far bigger foe than you will ever face!

Back to Timothy. Struggling with his Timidity and yet, knowing the stories of the disciples and the resurrection of his Lord, Paul offers hope.

So, the timidity pattern can be broken in his life, 3 verses later Paul pens one of the most impactful verses in all of the New Testament.

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10-NIV)

Jesus Christ has destroyed death. There is that word destroyed. Paul’s help to Timothy is also available to you today on resurrection Sunday. The word destroyed in the Greek is *katargeo*. To render inoperative. Useless. To annul. To nullify.

Think of other words that describe to nullify. You could spin it as abolish. Quash. Torpedo. Void. Stamp out. All bets are off. Blue pencil it. Render null and void.

Paul says to Timothy, “think of the most intimidating enemy the world has ever known. Is it a dictator or disease? Is it a plague or a person? What force in this world eventually defeats every human being? What enemy ultimately wins every time it puts its target on the back of a human being?”

The answer is death. That’s why every soul wonders, “what happens when we die?”

What happens when your candle goes out? Without life beyond the grave, then life before the grave makes no sense. Hitler and Billy Graham experience the same fate in the end. Extinction. No accountability for evil.

No reward for grace and goodness. No consciousness beyond the grave. No future. Just blackness forever. Christianity teaches that everyone is resurrected to a consciousness beyond the grave. To one of two future realities. To eternal life with God or eternal life separated from God.

It would be spiritual malpractice if I did not spell out these realities and make them blindingly clear. One place with Jesus and forgiveness of sins that destroyed death and offers eternal life and the other separated from Christ.

First, with Jesus Christ - this centers around the majesty and mercy of God. Redeemed followers enjoy God in heaven forever. All evil is catapulted into an eternal wasteland of separation from Christ and his followers.

Second, without Jesus Christ, this centers on an absence of God's presence, love, mercy, sins forgiven, and focuses solely on evil, rebellion, wickedness and death, hell and the grave.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2-NIV) God sends no one there. Those who end up in eternity away from Christ redemption and love are granted their request, God leave me alone. Stay away from life. Stay out of my life. God give you your request.

Avoid this place at all costs. All are resurrected to the future of their choosing. Death defeats everyone sooner or later. It always has and always will. It defeats the rich and poor. It defeats world leaders and obscure lovers. Death has been on a winning streak since rebellion has entered the human race back in the garden. No one defeats it.

Paul tells us and Timothy... **the one you follow, the one who died on a cross and rose again... the one who knows you, loves you, the one who redeemed you and adopted you, the one whose strong hand is holding your hand, every day, all day, that one, Jesus Christ, God's son, destroyed death.**

He didn't just land a good punch on its chin. He didn't just knock it down for an 8-count. He destroyed it. The translation is that he abolished it. He annihilated it.

Paul says to Timothy, on resurrection day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, Jesus demonstrated a supernatural and sovereign transcendent power which has never been witnessed before in all of history. And that same person, Jesus Christ, that is holding your hand, so wake Timothy, enough timidity.

Face your daily storms and trials with the help of the one that has destroyed a far bigger foe, than whatever you are dealing with. The argument from Paul was a game changer for Timothy and it can be for you too.

If you grab hold of God's resurrection mantra and brand today-The one I follow, has destroyed far larger foes than any opposition I am facing. **Jesus has destroyed a far bigger foe than I am facing today.**

I am convinced Pastor, what do I do? Believe and receive.

- **Believe** that God loves you. Christ died for you. Believe God has a plan for your life. Believe that through faith and with your sins forgiven, you can live forever in heaven with an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Receive** Jesus into your life and trust him with your future. **John 3:36** tells us, *"whoever accepts and trusts the son gets in on everything, life complete and forever."* (John 3:36-MSG)

In the end God won't ask you if you read your bible. If you went to church. Gave to the poor. God's only concern is did you have your sins forgiven by Jesus. Did you trust Jesus for everything?

If you say yes, you are ready to answer the question: **where will you spend eternity.** **Receiving** Jesus brings instant forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death is final and certain. Heaven is an eternal home prepared for you. Heaven has an address that will never change. But you will change. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last sound of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise and we will be changed.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I accept on this Easter that Jesus Christ was crucified for me and rose from the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection offer me forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

At this moment, I turn my life with all of its hurts, hangups and habits, my life with its sins, sickness and secrets over to Jesus Christ. I repent of and renounce my sinful life and receive my new life in Jesus Christ – washed, forgiven and heaven bound. I am now born again.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

He Is Risen

Pastor Ken

April 5, 2026

Good morning, Bethel Life Center, Danice, and I want to tell you how much we love you. We pray for you. Also, Bethel family, thank you for your financial gifts that you give weekly to God-On line, text to give, mail in or drop off in black offering boxes in back. Thank you!

And why do so many of you trust God in your giving of tithes and offerings to provide for your needs? Pay your mortgage and medical bills? Give you raises at work? Make it possible to for you to give to God's kingdom? Why? Because...

All that I have comes from the loving hand of God.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1-NIV)

I give to God joyfully, because all I have comes from God.

My faith comes from God.

My family comes from God.

My future in heaven comes from God.

My marriage comes from God.

My mission in life comes from God.

My money comes from God.

I think you get the point. Every good and perfect gift comes from the loving hand of a giving God. *For God so loved that he gave... (John 3:16)*

We are in the book of John chapter 20.

I am excited about Easter because it gives an opportunity for a **resurrection reset**. A resurrection "redo." I have been thinking about the idea of a "resurrection reset." A new start. A fresh beginning. An opportunity to put my past, in the past. To put my sins, in my Sin bearer's (Jesus) possession and to start again. Who wants a resurrection reset? Raise your hands. Oh, many, many of you.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

Let's pray. Father, your word is truth and truth everlasting. And even more than a lie detector test, you really do know what is in our hearts and the secrets that we **keep** and the sins that we **commit**. Jesus give me the power to change, Holy Spirit give me the desire to change, heal my body and cleanse me from my sins. You alone can offer salvation in Christ to all who believe and ask. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Every time you write a date you are referring to the resurrection. Have you thought about this recently? Every date in history, including your birthday (mine is June 9) is dated in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every time you write a date, you are using Jesus as the focal point. AD, BC.

Or if you electronically sign, sign a document that is a contract, when you put the date down-April 5, 2026, you are doing this from the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ split time and history into AD and BC. Even the atheist and agnostic has to acknowledge this fact.

Do you know what an atheist puts on their headstone? All dressed up with no place to go.

Now, don't raise your hand, but has anybody ever taken a lie detector test, also called a polygraph test? No, no don't raise your hand. I just want to ask the question. Why Pastor, do you have some kind of device that you can place on the screens to tell if I am telling the truth? No, but I do want you to know what the test does.

The lie detector test, created in 1947 measures physical manifestations of invisible thoughts. It gives an emotional and cognitive reaction, which is recorded on a machine, as to the truthfulness of your thinking.

If you lie using this machine, your body and invisible thinking tell the truth. Your hands get sweaty or your breathing speeds up. This all happens because of your thinking. These machines are accurate about 70-90% of the time. Your true thoughts can be discovered not only by machines, but also by God's word. God's word is accurate 100% degree of accuracy. Let me show this to you.

*¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** (Hebrews 4:12-NIV)*

Did you catch that? As you are listening and learning from God's word today, God will help you to get to the heart of the matter. Why?

Because the heart of the matter, is the matter of the heart.

So, I commend you for opening up yourself to a kind of lie detector test, **the word of God.**

My prayer is that you will not fight or flee from God but allow God to show you the **real you.** And then show you how much you are loved by Jesus Christ and then go to work on making you like Jesus.

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No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

That is the bad, news, here is the good news-Sunday is the day of victory for YOU! Come on it is Easter, give a little shout out, for Jesus' resurrection.

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Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

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Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2-NIV) God sends no one there. Those who end up in eternity away from Christ redemption and love are granted their request, God leave me alone. Stay away from life. Stay out of my life. God give you your request.

Avoid this place at all costs. All are resurrected to the future of their choosing. Death defeats everyone sooner or later. It always has and always will. It defeats the rich and poor. It defeats world leaders and obscure lovers. Death has been on a winning streak since rebellion has entered the human race back in the garden. No one defeats it.

Paul tells us and Timothy... **the one you follow, the one who died on a cross and rose again... the one who knows you, loves you, the one who redeemed you and adopted you, the one whose strong hand is holding your hand, every day, all day, that one, Jesus Christ, God's son, destroyed death.**

He didn't just land a good punch on its chin. He didn't just knock it down for an 8-count. He destroyed it. The translation is that he abolished it. He annihilated it.

Paul says to Timothy, on resurrection day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, Jesus demonstrated a supernatural and sovereign transcendent power which has never been witnessed before in all of history. And that same person, Jesus Christ, that is holding your hand, so wake Timothy, enough timidity.

Face your daily storms and trials with the help of the one that has destroyed a far bigger foe, than whatever you are dealing with. The argument from Paul was a game changer for Timothy and it can be for you too.

If you grab hold of God's resurrection mantra and brand today-The one I follow, has destroyed far larger foes than any opposition I am facing. **Jesus has destroyed a far bigger foe than I am facing today.**

I am convinced Pastor, what do I do? Believe and receive.

- **Believe** that God loves you. Christ died for you. Believe God has a plan for your life. Believe that through faith and with your sins forgiven, you can live forever in heaven with an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Receive** Jesus into your life and trust him with your future. **John 3:36** tells us, *"whoever accepts and trusts the son gets in on everything, life complete and forever."* (John 3:36-MSG)

In the end God won't ask you if you read your bible. If you went to church. Gave to the poor. God's only concern is did you have your sins forgiven by Jesus. Did you trust Jesus for everything?

If you say yes, you are ready to answer the question: **where will you spend eternity.** **Receiving** Jesus brings instant forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death is final and certain. Heaven is an eternal home prepared for you. Heaven has an address that will never change. But you will change. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last sound of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise and we will be changed.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I accept on this Easter that Jesus Christ was crucified for me and rose from the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection offer me forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

At this moment, I turn my life with all of its hurts, hangups and habits, my life with its sins, sickness and secrets over to Jesus Christ. I repent of and renounce my sinful life and receive my new life in Jesus Christ – washed, forgiven and heaven bound. I am now born again.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

He Is Risen

Pastor Ken

April 5, 2026

Good morning, Bethel Life Center, Danice, and I want to tell you how much we love you. We pray for you. Also, Bethel family, thank you for your financial gifts that you give weekly to God-On line, text to give, mail in or drop off in black offering boxes in back. Thank you!

And why do so many of you trust God in your giving of tithes and offerings to provide for your needs? Pay your mortgage and medical bills? Give you raises at work? Make it possible to for you to give to God's kingdom? Why? Because...

All that I have comes from the loving hand of God.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1-NIV)

I give to God joyfully, because all I have comes from God.

My faith comes from God.

My family comes from God.

My future in heaven comes from God.

My marriage comes from God.

My mission in life comes from God.

My money comes from God.

I think you get the point. Every good and perfect gift comes from the loving hand of a giving God. *For God so loved that he gave... (John 3:16)*

We are in the book of John chapter 20.

I am excited about Easter because it gives an opportunity for a **resurrection reset**. A resurrection "redo." I have been thinking about the idea of a "resurrection reset." A new start. A fresh beginning. An opportunity to put my past, in the past. To put my sins, in my Sin bearer's (Jesus) possession and to start again. Who wants a resurrection reset? Raise your hands. Oh, many, many of you.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

Let's pray. Father, your word is truth and truth everlasting. And even more than a lie detector test, you really do know what is in our hearts and the secrets that we **keep** and the sins that we **commit**. Jesus give me the power to change, Holy Spirit give me the desire to change, heal my body and cleanse me from my sins. You alone can offer salvation in Christ to all who believe and ask. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Every time you write a date you are referring to the resurrection. Have you thought about this recently? Every date in history, including your birthday (mine is June 9) is dated in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every time you write a date, you are using Jesus as the focal point. AD, BC.

Or if you electronically sign, sign a document that is a contract, when you put the date down-April 5, 2026, you are doing this from the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ split time and history into AD and BC. Even the atheist and agnostic has to acknowledge this fact.

Do you know what an atheist puts on their headstone? All dressed up with no place to go.

Now, don't raise your hand, but has anybody ever taken a lie detector test, also called a polygraph test? No, no don't raise your hand. I just want to ask the question. Why Pastor, do you have some kind of device that you can place on the screens to tell if I am telling the truth? No, but I do want you to know what the test does.

The lie detector test, created in 1947 measures physical manifestations of invisible thoughts. It gives an emotional and cognitive reaction, which is recorded on a machine, as to the truthfulness of your thinking.

If you lie using this machine, your body and invisible thinking tell the truth. Your hands get sweaty or your breathing speeds up. This all happens because of your thinking. These machines are accurate about 70-90% of the time. Your true thoughts can be discovered not only by machines, but also by God's word. God's word is accurate 100% degree of accuracy. Let me show this to you.

*¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** (Hebrews 4:12-NIV)*

Did you catch that? As you are listening and learning from God's word today, God will help you to get to the heart of the matter. Why?

Because the heart of the matter, is the matter of the heart.

So, I commend you for opening up yourself to a kind of lie detector test, **the word of God.**

My prayer is that you will not fight or flee from God but allow God to show you the **real you.** And then show you how much you are loved by Jesus Christ and then go to work on making you like Jesus.

Perhaps you have never put Easter weekend into this kind of formula. Look at it with me in your notes.

Friday was a day of pain for Jesus, Saturday was a day of confusion for the disciples, and Sunday is a day of victory for YOU!

On Friday of Easter weekend, in 1st Century time, no person ever suffered like Jesus suffered. Some of you right now are in a day of pain and suffering. Struggling with depression, debt and disappointment.

No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

That is the bad, news, here is the good news-Sunday is the day of victory for YOU! Come on it is Easter, give a little shout out, for Jesus' resurrection.

It was early, it was empty, and it was EASTER!

Oh, we know it was. And Mary was crying and Mary was confused. ¹¹ *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. (John 20-NIV)*

Mary was anything but happy. The events we call Easter weekend were now coming to a close, in her eyes. Jesus is about to weep with Mary, so she can celebrate with him.

It is still dark, between 4:00am and 6:00am. It is quiet. Mary is alone. It is likely cold, outside and inside her heart, because the one she loved is gone. Jesus is dead. Mary knows this. Mary has come to the tomb, not see Jesus, but to see a lifeless corpse.

What would a lifeless Jesus, offer a hurting Mary? If you have never trusted Christ, then the best you have is a lifeless Jesus. Come on seeker, come on sinner, don't leave Jesus that way.

What could a lifeless savior have to offer? The body has begun to decay. The face is ashen and motionless. The smell of death has a distinct order.

Mary traces the soldiers' steps from a few hours earlier as she navigates the path to the tomb of Jesus. Really, it is the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Suddenly Mary gasps, the stone has been rolled away. She is stunned. She is shocked. She is speechless. What does Mary do?

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

She runs and tells Peter and John; Jesus body has been stolen. The resurrection of Jesus Christ caught Mary and the disciples by complete surprise. Stop! Think about this with me:

One day we will find that our resurrection will catch us by complete surprise. Why? Because your death is not a resting place; it is a transformation place. Look at the bottom of your notes, you will experience all of this in eternity and so much more-

- **There will be a resurrection celebration of marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**
- **There will be a resurrection crowning with rewards. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)**
- **There will be a resurrection canceling of sins. (Psalm 103:12)**

Mary and Mary and the disciples experienced shock because they found something they were not looking for - the sealed tomb with a 1000-pound stone **had been moved**.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (John 20-NIV)

As Max Lucado says, "the stone from the Saviors tomb was not moved so Jesus could get out, it was moved so we could get in."

You need to accept the fact that there is no way you can move the stone that is in front of your life. Only Jesus can open the way for your miracle:

...a miracle of healing is waiting behind a 1000-pound stone,

...a miracle of restoration in your relationships and marriage is about to experience seismic force and will shake your world leaving no doubt that God has intervened.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. (Matthew 28-NIV)

God's financial intervention is winging its way from heaven providing miraculous economic relief to the desperate.

It may be dark in the worst weekend of your life but follow the path to Jesus and you will discover a resurrected Savior ready to remove your 1000-pound burdens. And in many cases destroy your 1000-pound blockage.

Jesus moved close to Mary. So, close his breathing startled her. As she turns the tears and darkness cause her to assume it must be the gardener. Who else would be up so early?

Jesus own words pierce her confusion, “why are your crying?” Then Mary is startled by the Risen Savior’s first resurrected words, **Mary**. Spoken softly. Her tears dry up.

She stands face-to-face with Jesus.

Her reaction is worship-she calls his name and grabs his body. It is not often that you hear your name spoken by the eternal son of God-Risen Savior Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20-NIV)

That which Mary experienced is not limited to her. Those of us that are Christ followers will one day, to hear the voice of our Savior when he announces,

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23-NIV)

Not a once in a lifetime encounter but a, for all of eternity and all ages an encounter that we will enjoy with Jesus as he is awaiting you and me. Many more hugs await us. Many more conversations to enjoy! Many more knees to bow.

Mary was startled, but the disciples were hiding.

They traveled with him for 3 years. From Galilee to the Golan heights. From Jericho to Jerusalem. From Bethlehem to Bethsaida.

They ate meals and laughed. They stood and marveled at miracles. They were given power by Jesus to do miracles of their own in Jesus’ name. They argued over who was the greatest. They wanted to call down fire and incinerate the Samaritans.

Even the most basic of customs they overlooked. Jesus washed their feet. Jesus rebuked them. Jesus forgave their sins. Jesus loved them, even Judas to the end.

Each disciples had an encounter with Jesus. Now, ³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (Luke 24:37-NIV)*

Easter morning has now descended past sunset.

We have left the garden tomb, and we peak into the room where the disciples are hiding.

This hiding place also hid their guilt and shame from deserting. Now, they are trapped. Their future was uncertain. In their hearts are broken dreams.

Like Mary, they are only moments away from their own resurrection experience. Without a knock on the door, Jesus appears before the disciples. They are startled and shocked, and the only explanation is something other worldly-like a ghost.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20-NIV)

Wasting no time Jesus gets to the heart of the matter, the matter of the heart. It seems that fear, doubt and guilt have arrested each one and Jesus has come to set them free.

And Jesus has come today to set you free. One word, changes everything, "Peace." A sudden calm. A word of comfort that works faster than nitroglycerin. Immediate results follow.

Jesus will not let you hide. On Easter, He gives you His presence, provision and power.

Jesus had come for one reason, to prove the resurrection and to right size their mission. Now, Mary gets it. The disciples get it.

Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

In first century, times, the apostle Paul, near the end of his life, writes his final letter to a young man he loves like a son. His name is Timothy. Paul sees huge potential in his life.

Timothy has one little problem. Timothy is prone to fear. Prone to Timidity. Prone to Cowardice. His sincere faith in God stumbles when he faces a storm or trouble. He is strong in the storms of life for a while, until doubt and fear set in and then he starts to spiral down into a virtual slump. And then he has a hard time getting out of the **Timidity** hole.

Timothy has unbelievable potential, but he often spirals out of control because of fear.

Paul calls out Timothy and says, “this is your Achilles heel.” If you want to live for God, do great things for God, enjoy God’s favor and blessing, Timothy you must resolve the timidity and fear issue.

So, Paul writes these words to Timothy – ⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1 NLT)*

If I were to ask everyone here today, how many would say they live with a spirit of timidity? We sing songs about the love and power of God on Sunday, spend our 15 minutes in a chair, serve the poor in the community, but later we hit a rough patch and our faith falters.

Fear takes over. We start that slow spiral into the same slump that Timothy found himself in. I wonder how many? Truth be told we live with inordinate levels of fear. Timidity? I wonder how it limits us.

Please listen carefully: Jesus Christ defeated a far bigger foe than you will ever face!

Back to Timothy. Struggling with his Timidity and yet, knowing the stories of the disciples and the resurrection of his Lord, Paul offers hope.

So, the timidity pattern can be broken in his life, 3 verses later Paul pens one of the most impactful verses in all of the New Testament.

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10-NIV)

Jesus Christ has destroyed death. There is that word destroyed. Paul’s help to Timothy is also available to you today on resurrection Sunday. The word destroyed in the Greek is *katargeo*. To render inoperative. Useless. To annul. To nullify.

Think of other words that describe to nullify. You could spin it as abolish. Quash. Torpedo. Void. Stamp out. All bets are off. Blue pencil it. Render null and void.

Paul says to Timothy, “think of the most intimidating enemy the world has ever known. Is it a dictator or disease? Is it a plague or a person? What force in this world eventually defeats every human being? What enemy ultimately wins every time it puts its target on the back of a human being?”

The answer is death. That’s why every soul wonders, “what happens when we die?”

What happens when your candle goes out? Without life beyond the grave, then life before the grave makes no sense. Hitler and Billy Graham experience the same fate in the end. Extinction. No accountability for evil.

No reward for grace and goodness. No consciousness beyond the grave. No future. Just blackness forever. Christianity teaches that everyone is resurrected to a consciousness beyond the grave. To one of two future realities. To eternal life with God or eternal life separated from God.

It would be spiritual malpractice if I did not spell out these realities and make them blindingly clear. One place with Jesus and forgiveness of sins that destroyed death and offers eternal life and the other separated from Christ.

First, with Jesus Christ - this centers around the majesty and mercy of God. Redeemed followers enjoy God in heaven forever. All evil is catapulted into an eternal wasteland of separation from Christ and his followers.

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No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

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Jesus moved close to Mary. So, close his breathing startled her. As she turns the tears and darkness cause her to assume it must be the gardener. Who else would be up so early?

Jesus own words pierce her confusion, “why are your crying?” Then Mary is startled by the Risen Savior’s first resurrected words, **Mary**. Spoken softly. Her tears dry up.

She stands face-to-face with Jesus.

Her reaction is worship-she calls his name and grabs his body. It is not often that you hear your name spoken by the eternal son of God-Risen Savior Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20-NIV)

That which Mary experienced is not limited to her. Those of us that are Christ followers will one day, to hear the voice of our Savior when he announces,

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23-NIV)

Not a once in a lifetime encounter but a, for all of eternity and all ages an encounter that we will enjoy with Jesus as he is awaiting you and me. Many more hugs await us. Many more conversations to enjoy! Many more knees to bow.

Mary was startled, but the disciples were hiding.

They traveled with him for 3 years. From Galilee to the Golan heights. From Jericho to Jerusalem. From Bethlehem to Bethsaida.

They ate meals and laughed. They stood and marveled at miracles. They were given power by Jesus to do miracles of their own in Jesus’ name. They argued over who was the greatest. They wanted to call down fire and incinerate the Samaritans.

Even the most basic of customs they overlooked. Jesus washed their feet. Jesus rebuked them. Jesus forgave their sins. Jesus loved them, even Judas to the end.

Each disciples had an encounter with Jesus. Now, ³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (Luke 24:37-NIV)*

Easter morning has now descended past sunset.

We have left the garden tomb, and we peak into the room where the disciples are hiding.

This hiding place also hid their guilt and shame from deserting. Now, they are trapped. Their future was uncertain. In their hearts are broken dreams.

Like Mary, they are only moments away from their own resurrection experience. Without a knock on the door, Jesus appears before the disciples. They are startled and shocked, and the only explanation is something other worldly-like a ghost.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20-NIV)

Wasting no time Jesus gets to the heart of the matter, the matter of the heart. It seems that fear, doubt and guilt have arrested each one and Jesus has come to set them free.

And Jesus has come today to set you free. One word, changes everything, "Peace." A sudden calm. A word of comfort that works faster than nitroglycerin. Immediate results follow.

Jesus will not let you hide. On Easter, He gives you His presence, provision and power.

Jesus had come for one reason, to prove the resurrection and to right size their mission. Now, Mary gets it. The disciples get it.

Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

In first century, times, the apostle Paul, near the end of his life, writes his final letter to a young man he loves like a son. His name is Timothy. Paul sees huge potential in his life.

Timothy has one little problem. Timothy is prone to fear. Prone to Timidity. Prone to Cowardice. His sincere faith in God stumbles when he faces a storm or trouble. He is strong in the storms of life for a while, until doubt and fear set in and then he starts to spiral down into a virtual slump. And then he has a hard time getting out of the **Timidity** hole.

Timothy has unbelievable potential, but he often spirals out of control because of fear.

Paul calls out Timothy and says, “this is your Achilles heel.” If you want to live for God, do great things for God, enjoy God’s favor and blessing, Timothy you must resolve the timidity and fear issue.

So, Paul writes these words to Timothy – ⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1 NLT)*

If I were to ask everyone here today, how many would say they live with a spirit of timidity? We sing songs about the love and power of God on Sunday, spend our 15 minutes in a chair, serve the poor in the community, but later we hit a rough patch and our faith falters.

Fear takes over. We start that slow spiral into the same slump that Timothy found himself in. I wonder how many? Truth be told we live with inordinate levels of fear. Timidity? I wonder how it limits us.

Please listen carefully: Jesus Christ defeated a far bigger foe than you will ever face!

Back to Timothy. Struggling with his Timidity and yet, knowing the stories of the disciples and the resurrection of his Lord, Paul offers hope.

So, the timidity pattern can be broken in his life, 3 verses later Paul pens one of the most impactful verses in all of the New Testament.

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10-NIV)

Jesus Christ has destroyed death. There is that word destroyed. Paul’s help to Timothy is also available to you today on resurrection Sunday. The word destroyed in the Greek is *katargeo*. To render inoperative. Useless. To annul. To nullify.

Think of other words that describe to nullify. You could spin it as abolish. Quash. Torpedo. Void. Stamp out. All bets are off. Blue pencil it. Render null and void.

Paul says to Timothy, “think of the most intimidating enemy the world has ever known. Is it a dictator or disease? Is it a plague or a person? What force in this world eventually defeats every human being? What enemy ultimately wins every time it puts its target on the back of a human being?”

The answer is death. That’s why every soul wonders, “what happens when we die?”

What happens when your candle goes out? Without life beyond the grave, then life before the grave makes no sense. Hitler and Billy Graham experience the same fate in the end. Extinction. No accountability for evil.

No reward for grace and goodness. No consciousness beyond the grave. No future. Just blackness forever. Christianity teaches that everyone is resurrected to a consciousness beyond the grave. To one of two future realities. To eternal life with God or eternal life separated from God.

It would be spiritual malpractice if I did not spell out these realities and make them blindingly clear. One place with Jesus and forgiveness of sins that destroyed death and offers eternal life and the other separated from Christ.

First, with Jesus Christ - this centers around the majesty and mercy of God. Redeemed followers enjoy God in heaven forever. All evil is catapulted into an eternal wasteland of separation from Christ and his followers.

Second, without Jesus Christ, this centers on an absence of God's presence, love, mercy, sins forgiven, and focuses solely on evil, rebellion, wickedness and death, hell and the grave.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2-NIV) God sends no one there. Those who end up in eternity away from Christ redemption and love are granted their request, God leave me alone. Stay away from life. Stay out of my life. God give you your request.

Avoid this place at all costs. All are resurrected to the future of their choosing. Death defeats everyone sooner or later. It always has and always will. It defeats the rich and poor. It defeats world leaders and obscure lovers. Death has been on a winning streak since rebellion has entered the human race back in the garden. No one defeats it.

Paul tells us and Timothy... **the one you follow, the one who died on a cross and rose again... the one who knows you, loves you, the one who redeemed you and adopted you, the one whose strong hand is holding your hand, every day, all day, that one, Jesus Christ, God's son, destroyed death.**

He didn't just land a good punch on its chin. He didn't just knock it down for an 8-count. He destroyed it. The translation is that he abolished it. He annihilated it.

Paul says to Timothy, on resurrection day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, Jesus demonstrated a supernatural and sovereign transcendent power which has never been witnessed before in all of history. And that same person, Jesus Christ, that is holding your hand, so wake Timothy, enough timidity.

Face your daily storms and trials with the help of the one that has destroyed a far bigger foe, than whatever you are dealing with. The argument from Paul was a game changer for Timothy and it can be for you too.

If you grab hold of God's resurrection mantra and brand today-The one I follow, has destroyed far larger foes than any opposition I am facing. **Jesus has destroyed a far bigger foe than I am facing today.**

I am convinced Pastor, what do I do? Believe and receive.

- **Believe** that God loves you. Christ died for you. Believe God has a plan for your life. Believe that through faith and with your sins forgiven, you can live forever in heaven with an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Receive** Jesus into your life and trust him with your future. **John 3:36** tells us, *"whoever accepts and trusts the son gets in on everything, life complete and forever."* (John 3:36-MSG)

In the end God won't ask you if you read your bible. If you went to church. Gave to the poor. God's only concern is did you have your sins forgiven by Jesus. Did you trust Jesus for everything?

If you say yes, you are ready to answer the question: **where will you spend eternity.** **Receiving** Jesus brings instant forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death is final and certain. Heaven is an eternal home prepared for you. Heaven has an address that will never change. But you will change. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last sound of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise and we will be changed.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I accept on this Easter that Jesus Christ was crucified for me and rose from the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection offer me forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

At this moment, I turn my life with all of its hurts, hangups and habits, my life with its sins, sickness and secrets over to Jesus Christ. I repent of and renounce my sinful life and receive my new life in Jesus Christ – washed, forgiven and heaven bound. I am now born again.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

He Is Risen

Pastor Ken

April 5, 2026

Good morning, Bethel Life Center, Danice, and I want to tell you how much we love you. We pray for you. Also, Bethel family, thank you for your financial gifts that you give weekly to God-On line, text to give, mail in or drop off in black offering boxes in back. Thank you!

And why do so many of you trust God in your giving of tithes and offerings to provide for your needs? Pay your mortgage and medical bills? Give you raises at work? Make it possible to for you to give to God's kingdom? Why? Because...

All that I have comes from the loving hand of God.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1-NIV)

I give to God joyfully, because all I have comes from God.

My faith comes from God.

My family comes from God.

My future in heaven comes from God.

My marriage comes from God.

My mission in life comes from God.

My money comes from God.

I think you get the point. Every good and perfect gift comes from the loving hand of a giving God. *For God so loved that he gave... (John 3:16)*

We are in the book of John chapter 20.

I am excited about Easter because it gives an opportunity for a **resurrection reset**. A resurrection "redo." I have been thinking about the idea of a "resurrection reset." A new start. A fresh beginning. An opportunity to put my past, in the past. To put my sins, in my Sin bearer's (Jesus) possession and to start again. Who wants a resurrection reset? Raise your hands. Oh, many, many of you.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

Let's pray. Father, your word is truth and truth everlasting. And even more than a lie detector test, you really do know what is in our hearts and the secrets that we **keep** and the sins that we **commit**. Jesus give me the power to change, Holy Spirit give me the desire to change, heal my body and cleanse me from my sins. You alone can offer salvation in Christ to all who believe and ask. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Every time you write a date you are referring to the resurrection. Have you thought about this recently? Every date in history, including your birthday (mine is June 9) is dated in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every time you write a date, you are using Jesus as the focal point. AD, BC.

Or if you electronically sign, sign a document that is a contract, when you put the date down-April 5, 2026, you are doing this from the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ split time and history into AD and BC. Even the atheist and agnostic has to acknowledge this fact.

Do you know what an atheist puts on their headstone? All dressed up with no place to go.

Now, don't raise your hand, but has anybody ever taken a lie detector test, also called a polygraph test? No, no don't raise your hand. I just want to ask the question. Why Pastor, do you have some kind of device that you can place on the screens to tell if I am telling the truth? No, but I do want you to know what the test does.

The lie detector test, created in 1947 measures physical manifestations of invisible thoughts. It gives an emotional and cognitive reaction, which is recorded on a machine, as to the truthfulness of your thinking.

If you lie using this machine, your body and invisible thinking tell the truth. Your hands get sweaty or your breathing speeds up. This all happens because of your thinking. These machines are accurate about 70-90% of the time. Your true thoughts can be discovered not only by machines, but also by God's word. God's word is accurate 100% degree of accuracy. Let me show this to you.

*¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** (Hebrews 4:12-NIV)*

Did you catch that? As you are listening and learning from God's word today, God will help you to get to the heart of the matter. Why?

Because the heart of the matter, is the matter of the heart.

So, I commend you for opening up yourself to a kind of lie detector test, **the word of God.**

My prayer is that you will not fight or flee from God but allow God to show you the **real you.** And then show you how much you are loved by Jesus Christ and then go to work on making you like Jesus.

Perhaps you have never put Easter weekend into this kind of formula. Look at it with me in your notes.

Friday was a day of pain for Jesus, Saturday was a day of confusion for the disciples, and Sunday is a day of victory for YOU!

On Friday of Easter weekend, in 1st Century time, no person ever suffered like Jesus suffered. Some of you right now are in a day of pain and suffering. Struggling with depression, debt and disappointment.

No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

That is the bad, news, here is the good news-Sunday is the day of victory for YOU! Come on it is Easter, give a little shout out, for Jesus' resurrection.

It was early, it was empty, and it was EASTER!

Oh, we know it was. And Mary was crying and Mary was confused. ¹¹ *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. (John 20-NIV)*

Mary was anything but happy. The events we call Easter weekend were now coming to a close, in her eyes. Jesus is about to weep with Mary, so she can celebrate with him.

It is still dark, between 4:00am and 6:00am. It is quiet. Mary is alone. It is likely cold, outside and inside her heart, because the one she loved is gone. Jesus is dead. Mary knows this. Mary has come to the tomb, not see Jesus, but to see a lifeless corpse.

What would a lifeless Jesus, offer a hurting Mary? If you have never trusted Christ, then the best you have is a lifeless Jesus. Come on seeker, come on sinner, don't leave Jesus that way.

What could a lifeless savior have to offer? The body has begun to decay. The face is ashen and motionless. The smell of death has a distinct order.

Mary traces the soldiers' steps from a few hours earlier as she navigates the path to the tomb of Jesus. Really, it is the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Suddenly Mary gasps, the stone has been rolled away. She is stunned. She is shocked. She is speechless. What does Mary do?

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

She runs and tells Peter and John; Jesus body has been stolen. The resurrection of Jesus Christ caught Mary and the disciples by complete surprise. Stop! Think about this with me:

One day we will find that our resurrection will catch us by complete surprise. Why? Because your death is not a resting place; it is a transformation place. Look at the bottom of your notes, you will experience all of this in eternity and so much more-

- **There will be a resurrection celebration of marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**
- **There will be a resurrection crowning with rewards. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)**
- **There will be a resurrection canceling of sins. (Psalm 103:12)**

Mary and Mary and the disciples experienced shock because they found something they were not looking for - the sealed tomb with a 1000-pound stone **had been moved**.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (John 20-NIV)

As Max Lucado says, "the stone from the Saviors tomb was not moved so Jesus could get out, it was moved so we could get in."

You need to accept the fact that there is no way you can move the stone that is in front of your life. Only Jesus can open the way for your miracle:

...a miracle of healing is waiting behind a 1000-pound stone,

...a miracle of restoration in your relationships and marriage is about to experience seismic force and will shake your world leaving no doubt that God has intervened.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. (Matthew 28-NIV)

God's financial intervention is winging its way from heaven providing miraculous economic relief to the desperate.

It may be dark in the worst weekend of your life but follow the path to Jesus and you will discover a resurrected Savior ready to remove your 1000-pound burdens. And in many cases destroy your 1000-pound blockage.

Jesus moved close to Mary. So, close his breathing startled her. As she turns the tears and darkness cause her to assume it must be the gardener. Who else would be up so early?

Jesus own words pierce her confusion, “why are your crying?” Then Mary is startled by the Risen Savior’s first resurrected words, **Mary**. Spoken softly. Her tears dry up.

She stands face-to-face with Jesus.

Her reaction is worship-she calls his name and grabs his body. It is not often that you hear your name spoken by the eternal son of God-Risen Savior Jesus.

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Not a once in a lifetime encounter but a, for all of eternity and all ages an encounter that we will enjoy with Jesus as he is awaiting you and me. Many more hugs await us. Many more conversations to enjoy! Many more knees to bow.

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Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

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I think you get the point. Every good and perfect gift comes from the loving hand of a giving God. *For God so loved that he gave... (John 3:16)*

We are in the book of John chapter 20.

I am excited about Easter because it gives an opportunity for a **resurrection reset**. A resurrection "redo." I have been thinking about the idea of a "resurrection reset." A new start. A fresh beginning. An opportunity to put my past, in the past. To put my sins, in my Sin bearer's (Jesus) possession and to start again. Who wants a resurrection reset? Raise your hands. Oh, many, many of you.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

Let's pray. Father, your word is truth and truth everlasting. And even more than a lie detector test, you really do know what is in our hearts and the secrets that we **keep** and the sins that we **commit**. Jesus give me the power to change, Holy Spirit give me the desire to change, heal my body and cleanse me from my sins. You alone can offer salvation in Christ to all who believe and ask. In Jesus Name, Amen!

Every time you write a date you are referring to the resurrection. Have you thought about this recently? Every date in history, including your birthday (mine is June 9) is dated in reference to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Every time you write a date, you are using Jesus as the focal point. AD, BC.

Or if you electronically sign, sign a document that is a contract, when you put the date down-April 5, 2026, you are doing this from the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ split time and history into AD and BC. Even the atheist and agnostic has to acknowledge this fact.

Do you know what an atheist puts on their headstone? All dressed up with no place to go.

Now, don't raise your hand, but has anybody ever taken a lie detector test, also called a polygraph test? No, no don't raise your hand. I just want to ask the question. Why Pastor, do you have some kind of device that you can place on the screens to tell if I am telling the truth? No, but I do want you to know what the test does.

The lie detector test, created in 1947 measures physical manifestations of invisible thoughts. It gives an emotional and cognitive reaction, which is recorded on a machine, as to the truthfulness of your thinking.

If you lie using this machine, your body and invisible thinking tell the truth. Your hands get sweaty or your breathing speeds up. This all happens because of your thinking. These machines are accurate about 70-90% of the time. Your true thoughts can be discovered not only by machines, but also by God's word. God's word is accurate 100% degree of accuracy. Let me show this to you.

*¹² For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the **thoughts and attitudes of the heart.** (Hebrews 4:12-NIV)*

Did you catch that? As you are listening and learning from God's word today, God will help you to get to the heart of the matter. Why?

Because the heart of the matter, is the matter of the heart.

So, I commend you for opening up yourself to a kind of lie detector test, **the word of God.**

My prayer is that you will not fight or flee from God but allow God to show you the **real you.** And then show you how much you are loved by Jesus Christ and then go to work on making you like Jesus.

Perhaps you have never put Easter weekend into this kind of formula. Look at it with me in your notes.

Friday was a day of pain for Jesus, Saturday was a day of confusion for the disciples, and Sunday is a day of victory for YOU!

On Friday of Easter weekend, in 1st Century time, no person ever suffered like Jesus suffered. Some of you right now are in a day of pain and suffering. Struggling with depression, debt and disappointment.

No person has ever been as confused on Saturday as Peter, Thomas and even Judas that led to his death. Some of you are not sure what to do with your life. You want to know does Jesus have an answer?

That is the bad, news, here is the good news-Sunday is the day of victory for YOU! Come on it is Easter, give a little shout out, for Jesus' resurrection.

It was early, it was empty, and it was EASTER!

Oh, we know it was. And Mary was crying and Mary was confused. ¹¹ *Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb. (John 20-NIV)*

Mary was anything but happy. The events we call Easter weekend were now coming to a close, in her eyes. Jesus is about to weep with Mary, so she can celebrate with him.

It is still dark, between 4:00am and 6:00am. It is quiet. Mary is alone. It is likely cold, outside and inside her heart, because the one she loved is gone. Jesus is dead. Mary knows this. Mary has come to the tomb, not see Jesus, but to see a lifeless corpse.

What would a lifeless Jesus, offer a hurting Mary? If you have never trusted Christ, then the best you have is a lifeless Jesus. Come on seeker, come on sinner, don't leave Jesus that way.

What could a lifeless savior have to offer? The body has begun to decay. The face is ashen and motionless. The smell of death has a distinct order.

Mary traces the soldiers' steps from a few hours earlier as she navigates the path to the tomb of Jesus. Really, it is the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

Suddenly Mary gasps, the stone has been rolled away. She is stunned. She is shocked. She is speechless. What does Mary do?

² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" (John 20-NIV)

She runs and tells Peter and John; Jesus body has been stolen. The resurrection of Jesus Christ caught Mary and the disciples by complete surprise. Stop! Think about this with me:

One day we will find that our resurrection will catch us by complete surprise. Why? Because your death is not a resting place; it is a transformation place. Look at the bottom of your notes, you will experience all of this in eternity and so much more-

- **There will be a resurrection celebration of marriage. (Revelation 19:6-9)**
- **There will be a resurrection crowning with rewards. (1 Corinthians 3:10-15)**
- **There will be a resurrection canceling of sins. (Psalm 103:12)**

Mary and Mary and the disciples experienced shock because they found something they were not looking for - the sealed tomb with a 1000-pound stone **had been moved**.

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. (John 20-NIV)

As Max Lucado says, "the stone from the Saviors tomb was not moved so Jesus could get out, it was moved so we could get in."

You need to accept the fact that there is no way you can move the stone that is in front of your life. Only Jesus can open the way for your miracle:

...a miracle of healing is waiting behind a 1000-pound stone,

...a miracle of restoration in your relationships and marriage is about to experience seismic force and will shake your world leaving no doubt that God has intervened.

² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. (Matthew 28-NIV)

God's financial intervention is winging its way from heaven providing miraculous economic relief to the desperate.

It may be dark in the worst weekend of your life but follow the path to Jesus and you will discover a resurrected Savior ready to remove your 1000-pound burdens. And in many cases destroy your 1000-pound blockage.

Jesus moved close to Mary. So, close his breathing startled her. As she turns the tears and darkness cause her to assume it must be the gardener. Who else would be up so early?

Jesus own words pierce her confusion, “why are your crying?” Then Mary is startled by the Risen Savior’s first resurrected words, **Mary**. Spoken softly. Her tears dry up.

She stands face-to-face with Jesus.

Her reaction is worship-she calls his name and grabs his body. It is not often that you hear your name spoken by the eternal son of God-Risen Savior Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). ¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” (John 20-NIV)

That which Mary experienced is not limited to her. Those of us that are Christ followers will one day, to hear the voice of our Savior when he announces,

His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23-NIV)

Not a once in a lifetime encounter but a, for all of eternity and all ages an encounter that we will enjoy with Jesus as he is awaiting you and me. Many more hugs await us. Many more conversations to enjoy! Many more knees to bow.

Mary was startled, but the disciples were hiding.

They traveled with him for 3 years. From Galilee to the Golan heights. From Jericho to Jerusalem. From Bethlehem to Bethsaida.

They ate meals and laughed. They stood and marveled at miracles. They were given power by Jesus to do miracles of their own in Jesus’ name. They argued over who was the greatest. They wanted to call down fire and incinerate the Samaritans.

Even the most basic of customs they overlooked. Jesus washed their feet. Jesus rebuked them. Jesus forgave their sins. Jesus loved them, even Judas to the end.

Each disciples had an encounter with Jesus. Now, ³⁷ *They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. (Luke 24:37-NIV)*

Easter morning has now descended past sunset.

We have left the garden tomb, and we peak into the room where the disciples are hiding.

This hiding place also hid their guilt and shame from deserting. Now, they are trapped. Their future was uncertain. In their hearts are broken dreams.

Like Mary, they are only moments away from their own resurrection experience. Without a knock on the door, Jesus appears before the disciples. They are startled and shocked, and the only explanation is something other worldly-like a ghost.

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20-NIV)

Wasting no time Jesus gets to the heart of the matter, the matter of the heart. It seems that fear, doubt and guilt have arrested each one and Jesus has come to set them free.

And Jesus has come today to set you free. One word, changes everything, "Peace." A sudden calm. A word of comfort that works faster than nitroglycerin. Immediate results follow.

Jesus will not let you hide. On Easter, He gives you His presence, provision and power.

Jesus had come for one reason, to prove the resurrection and to right size their mission. Now, Mary gets it. The disciples get it.

Now, a generation later, Paul and Timothy will get it.

In first century, times, the apostle Paul, near the end of his life, writes his final letter to a young man he loves like a son. His name is Timothy. Paul sees huge potential in his life.

Timothy has one little problem. Timothy is prone to fear. Prone to Timidity. Prone to Cowardice. His sincere faith in God stumbles when he faces a storm or trouble. He is strong in the storms of life for a while, until doubt and fear set in and then he starts to spiral down into a virtual slump. And then he has a hard time getting out of the **Timidity** hole.

Timothy has unbelievable potential, but he often spirals out of control because of fear.

Paul calls out Timothy and says, “this is your Achilles heel.” If you want to live for God, do great things for God, enjoy God’s favor and blessing, Timothy you must resolve the timidity and fear issue.

So, Paul writes these words to Timothy – ⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1 NLT)*

If I were to ask everyone here today, how many would say they live with a spirit of timidity? We sing songs about the love and power of God on Sunday, spend our 15 minutes in a chair, serve the poor in the community, but later we hit a rough patch and our faith falters.

Fear takes over. We start that slow spiral into the same slump that Timothy found himself in. I wonder how many? Truth be told we live with inordinate levels of fear. Timidity? I wonder how it limits us.

Please listen carefully: Jesus Christ defeated a far bigger foe than you will ever face!

Back to Timothy. Struggling with his Timidity and yet, knowing the stories of the disciples and the resurrection of his Lord, Paul offers hope.

So, the timidity pattern can be broken in his life, 3 verses later Paul pens one of the most impactful verses in all of the New Testament.

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10-NIV)

Jesus Christ has destroyed death. There is that word destroyed. Paul’s help to Timothy is also available to you today on resurrection Sunday. The word destroyed in the Greek is *katargeo*. To render inoperative. Useless. To annul. To nullify.

Think of other words that describe to nullify. You could spin it as abolish. Quash. Torpedo. Void. Stamp out. All bets are off. Blue pencil it. Render null and void.

Paul says to Timothy, “think of the most intimidating enemy the world has ever known. Is it a dictator or disease? Is it a plague or a person? What force in this world eventually defeats every human being? What enemy ultimately wins every time it puts its target on the back of a human being?”

The answer is death. That’s why every soul wonders, “what happens when we die?”

What happens when your candle goes out? Without life beyond the grave, then life before the grave makes no sense. Hitler and Billy Graham experience the same fate in the end. Extinction. No accountability for evil.

No reward for grace and goodness. No consciousness beyond the grave. No future. Just blackness forever. Christianity teaches that everyone is resurrected to a consciousness beyond the grave. To one of two future realities. To eternal life with God or eternal life separated from God.

It would be spiritual malpractice if I did not spell out these realities and make them blindingly clear. One place with Jesus and forgiveness of sins that destroyed death and offers eternal life and the other separated from Christ.

First, with Jesus Christ - this centers around the majesty and mercy of God. Redeemed followers enjoy God in heaven forever. All evil is catapulted into an eternal wasteland of separation from Christ and his followers.

Second, without Jesus Christ, this centers on an absence of God's presence, love, mercy, sins forgiven, and focuses solely on evil, rebellion, wickedness and death, hell and the grave.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2-NIV) God sends no one there. Those who end up in eternity away from Christ redemption and love are granted their request, God leave me alone. Stay away from life. Stay out of my life. God give you your request.

Avoid this place at all costs. All are resurrected to the future of their choosing. Death defeats everyone sooner or later. It always has and always will. It defeats the rich and poor. It defeats world leaders and obscure lovers. Death has been on a winning streak since rebellion has entered the human race back in the garden. No one defeats it.

Paul tells us and Timothy... **the one you follow, the one who died on a cross and rose again... the one who knows you, loves you, the one who redeemed you and adopted you, the one whose strong hand is holding your hand, every day, all day, that one, Jesus Christ, God's son, destroyed death.**

He didn't just land a good punch on its chin. He didn't just knock it down for an 8-count. He destroyed it. The translation is that he abolished it. He annihilated it.

Paul says to Timothy, on resurrection day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, Jesus demonstrated a supernatural and sovereign transcendent power which has never been witnessed before in all of history. And that same person, Jesus Christ, that is holding your hand, so wake Timothy, enough timidity.

Face your daily storms and trials with the help of the one that has destroyed a far bigger foe, than whatever you are dealing with. The argument from Paul was a game changer for Timothy and it can be for you too.

If you grab hold of God's resurrection mantra and brand today-The one I follow, has destroyed far larger foes than any opposition I am facing. **Jesus has destroyed a far bigger foe than I am facing today.**

I am convinced Pastor, what do I do? Believe and receive.

- **Believe** that God loves you. Christ died for you. Believe God has a plan for your life. Believe that through faith and with your sins forgiven, you can live forever in heaven with an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Receive** Jesus into your life and trust him with your future. **John 3:36** tells us, *"whoever accepts and trusts the son gets in on everything, life complete and forever."* (John 3:36-MSG)

In the end God won't ask you if you read your bible. If you went to church. Gave to the poor. God's only concern is did you have your sins forgiven by Jesus. Did you trust Jesus for everything?

If you say yes, you are ready to answer the question: **where will you spend eternity.** **Receiving** Jesus brings instant forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death is final and certain. Heaven is an eternal home prepared for you. Heaven has an address that will never change. But you will change. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last sound of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise and we will be changed.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I accept on this Easter that Jesus Christ was crucified for me and rose from the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection offer me forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

At this moment, I turn my life with all of its hurts, hangups and habits, my life with its sins, sickness and secrets over to Jesus Christ. I repent of and renounce my sinful life and receive my new life in Jesus Christ – washed, forgiven and heaven bound. I am now born again.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

He Is Risen

Pastor Ken

April 5, 2026

Good morning, Bethel Life Center, Danice, and I want to tell you how much we love you. We pray for you. Also, Bethel family, thank you for your financial gifts that you give weekly to God-On line, text to give, mail in or drop off in black offering boxes in back. Thank you!

And why do so many of you trust God in your giving of tithes and offerings to provide for your needs? Pay your mortgage and medical bills? Give you raises at work? Make it possible to for you to give to God's kingdom? Why? Because...

All that I have comes from the loving hand of God.

¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. (James 1-NIV)

I give to God joyfully, because all I have comes from God.

My faith comes from God.

My family comes from God.

My future in heaven comes from God.

My marriage comes from God.

My mission in life comes from God.

My money comes from God.

I think you get the point. Every good and perfect gift comes from the loving hand of a giving God. *For God so loved that he gave... (John 3:16)*

We are in the book of John chapter 20.

I am excited about Easter because it gives an opportunity for a **resurrection reset**. A resurrection "redo." I have been thinking about the idea of a "resurrection reset." A new start. A fresh beginning. An opportunity to put my past, in the past. To put my sins, in my Sin bearer's (Jesus) possession and to start again. Who wants a resurrection reset? Raise your hands. Oh, many, many of you.

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Timothy has one little problem. Timothy is prone to fear. Prone to Timidity. Prone to Cowardice. His sincere faith in God stumbles when he faces a storm or trouble. He is strong in the storms of life for a while, until doubt and fear set in and then he starts to spiral down into a virtual slump. And then he has a hard time getting out of the **Timidity** hole.

Timothy has unbelievable potential, but he often spirals out of control because of fear.

Paul calls out Timothy and says, “this is your Achilles heel.” If you want to live for God, do great things for God, enjoy God’s favor and blessing, Timothy you must resolve the timidity and fear issue.

So, Paul writes these words to Timothy – ⁷ *For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1 NLT)*

If I were to ask everyone here today, how many would say they live with a spirit of timidity? We sing songs about the love and power of God on Sunday, spend our 15 minutes in a chair, serve the poor in the community, but later we hit a rough patch and our faith falters.

Fear takes over. We start that slow spiral into the same slump that Timothy found himself in. I wonder how many? Truth be told we live with inordinate levels of fear. Timidity? I wonder how it limits us.

Please listen carefully: Jesus Christ defeated a far bigger foe than you will ever face!

Back to Timothy. Struggling with his Timidity and yet, knowing the stories of the disciples and the resurrection of his Lord, Paul offers hope.

So, the timidity pattern can be broken in his life, 3 verses later Paul pens one of the most impactful verses in all of the New Testament.

But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10-NIV)

Jesus Christ has destroyed death. There is that word destroyed. Paul’s help to Timothy is also available to you today on resurrection Sunday. The word destroyed in the Greek is *katargeo*. To render inoperative. Useless. To annul. To nullify.

Think of other words that describe to nullify. You could spin it as abolish. Quash. Torpedo. Void. Stamp out. All bets are off. Blue pencil it. Render null and void.

Paul says to Timothy, “think of the most intimidating enemy the world has ever known. Is it a dictator or disease? Is it a plague or a person? What force in this world eventually defeats every human being? What enemy ultimately wins every time it puts its target on the back of a human being?”

The answer is death. That’s why every soul wonders, “what happens when we die?”

What happens when your candle goes out? Without life beyond the grave, then life before the grave makes no sense. Hitler and Billy Graham experience the same fate in the end. Extinction. No accountability for evil.

No reward for grace and goodness. No consciousness beyond the grave. No future. Just blackness forever. Christianity teaches that everyone is resurrected to a consciousness beyond the grave. To one of two future realities. To eternal life with God or eternal life separated from God.

It would be spiritual malpractice if I did not spell out these realities and make them blindingly clear. One place with Jesus and forgiveness of sins that destroyed death and offers eternal life and the other separated from Christ.

First, with Jesus Christ - this centers around the majesty and mercy of God. Redeemed followers enjoy God in heaven forever. All evil is catapulted into an eternal wasteland of separation from Christ and his followers.

Second, without Jesus Christ, this centers on an absence of God's presence, love, mercy, sins forgiven, and focuses solely on evil, rebellion, wickedness and death, hell and the grave.

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2-NIV) God sends no one there. Those who end up in eternity away from Christ redemption and love are granted their request, God leave me alone. Stay away from life. Stay out of my life. God give you your request.

Avoid this place at all costs. All are resurrected to the future of their choosing. Death defeats everyone sooner or later. It always has and always will. It defeats the rich and poor. It defeats world leaders and obscure lovers. Death has been on a winning streak since rebellion has entered the human race back in the garden. No one defeats it.

Paul tells us and Timothy... **the one you follow, the one who died on a cross and rose again... the one who knows you, loves you, the one who redeemed you and adopted you, the one whose strong hand is holding your hand, every day, all day, that one, Jesus Christ, God's son, destroyed death.**

He didn't just land a good punch on its chin. He didn't just knock it down for an 8-count. He destroyed it. The translation is that he abolished it. He annihilated it.

Paul says to Timothy, on resurrection day when Jesus Christ rose from the grave, Jesus demonstrated a supernatural and sovereign transcendent power which has never been witnessed before in all of history. And that same person, Jesus Christ, that is holding your hand, so wake Timothy, enough timidity.

Face your daily storms and trials with the help of the one that has destroyed a far bigger foe, than whatever you are dealing with. The argument from Paul was a game changer for Timothy and it can be for you too.

If you grab hold of God's resurrection mantra and brand today-The one I follow, has destroyed far larger foes than any opposition I am facing. **Jesus has destroyed a far bigger foe than I am facing today.**

I am convinced Pastor, what do I do? Believe and receive.

- **Believe** that God loves you. Christ died for you. Believe God has a plan for your life. Believe that through faith and with your sins forgiven, you can live forever in heaven with an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- **Receive** Jesus into your life and trust him with your future. **John 3:36** tells us, *"whoever accepts and trusts the son gets in on everything, life complete and forever."* (John 3:36-MSG)

In the end God won't ask you if you read your bible. If you went to church. Gave to the poor. God's only concern is did you have your sins forgiven by Jesus. Did you trust Jesus for everything?

If you say yes, you are ready to answer the question: **where will you spend eternity.** **Receiving** Jesus brings instant forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Death is final and certain. Heaven is an eternal home prepared for you. Heaven has an address that will never change. But you will change. In the twinkling of an eye, at the last sound of the trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise and we will be changed.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner. I accept on this Easter that Jesus Christ was crucified for me and rose from the grave. Jesus' death and resurrection offer me forgiveness of sins and eternal life to all who believe.

At this moment, I turn my life with all of its hurts, hangups and habits, my life with its sins, sickness and secrets over to Jesus Christ. I repent of and renounce my sinful life and receive my new life in Jesus Christ – washed, forgiven and heaven bound. I am now born again.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.