REMEMBER THE RESURRECTION

Mark 16:16

"There is virtue in repeating basics that shouldn't be forgotten. The resurrection is not simply a component of the gospel; it is the main event. It is the glorious centerpiece of divine redemption, the cornerstone of the gospel promise, and the guarantee of eternal life for those who believe. The resurrection is not the epilogue or postscript to the life of Christ, it is the culminating climax of His atoning work."

(John MacArthur)

"The narrative of Jesus' resurrection forms the grand climax of the story of Jesus Christ in all four Gospels. It is the keystone to the Christian message: without His resurrection, there never would have been any preaching of the good news of salvation in Him."

(D. Edmond Hiebert)

I. Commission of the Good News

- 1. Every Christian is on a daily mission to serve and represent Jesus.
- 2. How we fulfill this mission matters to God.
- 3. God has defined what this mission involves and how to accomplish it for Him.
- 4. It matters to God how you and I live our Christian lives, because...
- 5. What we believe and how we behave are what we make disciples from.

And all of this helps us remember to remain prayerfully aware of making disciples in the image of our Savior and not of self or our society.

How does anyone become a follower of Jesus? The good news that we each proclaim says 'be saved from your sins by believing, trusting, and following Jesus.'

But what is the condition attached to responding?

Christians take the gospel to their world, and the people who hear "will be saved" or "will be condemned," depending on how they respond to the gospel message brought to them.

We need to ask, 'what is the gospel, what is believing, and what is baptism as they each relate to being saved or being condemned in the greater context of Scripture?

The gospel is not:

- "Jesus is Lord."
- "God will remake this fallen world."
- "God wants to transform our culture."

The gospel says:

- God is holy.
 - God is each person's Creator and Judge.
 - Each person is separated from God by his/her sinful nature.

The gospel says:

- God is holy.
- Our sin nature is expressed in attitudes and actions of self-will against God, His law of life, and against others.
 - That sin nature produces death in us.

The gospel says:

- God is holy.
- Our sin nature results in death.
- God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to live and die and live again on behalf of people enslaved to sin.
 - God offers His forgiveness for sins only through His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - God forgives those who turn away from their sinful rebellion and who trust Jesus Christ alone to make them right with God.

Believing in Jesus means that you believe that Jesus did all of this as your substitute, in your place, for you, on your behalf.

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