

Salvation is a Life
John 20:30-31
April 5, 2026

1. Life is EVERYWHERE!
 - a. Come over to my house. Life has burst upon the scene.
 - b. Walk through the woods. Life is exploding around us with the advent o Spring.
2. Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection, the celebration of new LIFE
 - a. What is the resurrection?
 - i. It is the most well-documented event of antiquity. Count on it: Jesus lived. Jesus died on a Roman cross. Jesus was buried in a Jewish tomb. Jesus rose again to reign in heaven.
 - ii. Resurrection is proof:
 1. Our sins are forgiven. We are justified, declared righteous!
 2. We will live in heaven with Jesus.
 3. We can trust all the promises of God.
 - iii. The resurrection is the model for the new life for those who are in Christ.
 - b. Today and next Sunday we are going to dive into the life we have if we are in Christ.
3. Read John 20:30-31 and pray. [SLIDE]
4. Brief background
 - a. Two Gospel writers tell us explicitly why they wrote:
 - i. Luke 1:1-4: Luke did exhaustive research to compile an accurate account of the events of Jesus' life. "so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught."
 - ii. John carefully curated a selection of stories from Jesus' life so that his readers "but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name."
 - b. Belief and Life in John's Gospel are woven together. For example: John 3:16
For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
5. John 20:30-31
 - a. Jesus' life was FULL of stories–miracles, teaching, lives touched. John 21:25:

And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

b. *These stories were chosen for a purpose. That you might believe. Believe what?*

i. First, that Jesus is the Christ. Isaiah 53:4-6 [SLIDE]

Surely our griefs He Himself bore,
And our sorrows He carried;
Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten of God, and afflicted.
But He was pierced through for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
The chastening for our [i]well-being fell upon Him,
And by His scourging we are healed.
All of us like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way;
But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all
To fall on Him.

ii. Jesus is the Son of God

iii. John wrote so you might believe that Jesus, the eternal Son of God, became a man, modeled a perfect life in relationship to God, then died on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins. Have you trusted Jesus?

c. What is the outcome of your belief? New life!

i. John 20:31 again: **That believing you might have life in His name.**

ii. This life is the same kind of life Jesus lived.

6. What is this life to which Jesus refers over and over?

a. The obvious answer:

i. Life in heaven with God forever.

ii. We will be like Jesus (1 Corinthians 15 and 1 John 3).

b. But is that it? It cannot be because both Paul and John connect our future in heaven to our life NOW.

i. 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

ii. 1 John 3:3

And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

c. So what is this life?

- i. But first, a disclaimer: You might find what I am going to show you this morning too good to be true. It does not fit with the experience of your life. This week we will be talking about *what* this life is. Next week we will examine *how* we live the life promised by Jesus. If you are not able to be here, I urge you to watch next week's sermon!
- ii. This life is everything you desire!
- iii. First, it is life immersed in relationship with God the Father and His Son through the Holy Spirit. Remember what we learned last week? We are *rooted, grounded, and immersed* in the love of God. [SLIDE]

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. (John 17:3)

- iv. Second, it is *abundant* life. Jesus described it as
 1. A well of water springing up to eternal life (John 4:14)
 2. Rivers flowing out of the believer (John 7:38)
 3. Abundant life (John 10:10)
- v. Third: It is a fruitful life. John 15:16 [SLIDE]

You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.

- vi. Fourth: It is a God-empowered life. John 14:12-14 [SLIDE]

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. 13 Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

- vii. Fifth: It is a life like Jesus. [SLIDE]

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

7. What does this mean for us?

- a. What happened through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus?
- b. Galatians 2:20 [SLIDE]

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

c. Do you believe?