

Recap of 7/14/24 message by Pastor Steve (Mark 16:1-8)

We come now to the resurrection. Without the resurrection, the cross is a tragedy and would remind us of agony and death. With the resurrection, the cross is a sign of hope that reminds us of life. All that Jesus did and taught culminates in His resurrection.

Mark tells us of the women finding the empty tomb and the subsequent appearances of the risen Christ. Reading the four resurrection accounts (Mt 28, Mk 16, Lk 24, Jn 20-21) gives the full picture of events. It is an undisputed fact of history that on the first day of the week, several women approached the tomb to find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty. While investigating further, they are shown where Jesus was laid and told that "He is not here" and "He has risen." The angel tells them "Do not be amazed," shocked, alarmed, surprised, perplexed, astounded (pick your adjective). All is exactly as Jesus taught. He told His followers at least five times (Mk 8:31, 9:9, 9:31, 10:33-34, 14:28) that He would rise from the dead. What God says is sure. Are there any areas of our lives where we are surprised by what God does because we forget what God has said?

Given the fact of the empty tomb, we have two choices. 1) Believe all that scriptures say (and that Jesus taught about Himself), accept that He is God incarnate, that He died for our sins, and that He is alive or 2) come up with some alternate theory to explain the empty tomb. One choice leads to life abundant and eternal with Him; one choice leads to struggling with life's meaning, its purpose, and ultimately to a Godless eternity. Choose Jesus; choose life.