God's Game-Changer: The Moment of Redemption

Tony Thornton, Senior Minister/Itawamba Christian Church Resurrection Sunday, April 12, 2020

The Roman cross was more than a death sentence! It was public statement to any and all who would have the nerve to think of anyone other than Caesar being Lord!



Jews had seen it time and time again, why would anything think this time it would be different?

- The moment of Redemption was ______

 Jesus' resurrection is shocking...
 - ...because no one accurately understood God's story
 - ...because it destroyed the 2 common ideas about death & final judgments

Jesus' resurrection shows us what we will be like when He returns:

"Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. *But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him*, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure." 1 John 3:2,3

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the *firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*" Romans 8:29

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him." 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

| • | The moment of Redemption is encapsulated in a very |
|---|--|
| | familiar term: |

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of <u>the *gospel*</u> I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ² By <u>this</u>

<u>gospel</u> you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

³ For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶ After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸ and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹ Whether, then, it is I or they, *this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.* 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm**. Let nothing move you. **Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord**, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Redemption is rooted in believing this simple news and always laboring to announce and advance it!

The moment of Redemption ____ the Power and Wisdom of God!

For the *message of the cross* is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved *it is the power of God*. ¹⁹ For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise:

the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Resurrection is not simply Jesus raising from the dead, but what it reveals and unleashes!

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible. You may make comments or ask questions about this message by emailing Bro. Tony at: Tonythornton1960@gmail.com