

April 2010

From the Pastor



Is Your Rabbit Still Alive?

There is the story of two families who had been neighbors and were becoming friends. One family had a beautiful white bunny rabbit their daughter had been raising from almost the moment the rabbit was born. The other family had a hound dog that didn't always behave.

One day the dog came home with the rabbit in his mouth, and it was very clear the rabbit was very dead. Now the wife of the family who owned the dog didn't know what to do. The relationship with the family who owned the rabbit wasn't yet that solid, and she didn't want to hurt what little relationship they had.

So she took the dead rabbit and washed it. After giving the dead animal a good bath, she blow dried the hair. Then she snuck into the backyard of her neighbor, opened the rabbit's cage and propped up the rabbit in the cage.

Later that afternoon, she heard screaming coming from the neighbor's house. She rushed over to see what was going on. She came to her neighbor as she was screaming and pointing to the rabbit's cage. She rushed up and asked, "What's wrong?" And her neighbor said, "Fluffy (the late rabbit's name) died two days ago. We buried her, and now she's back alive in her cage!"

I love that story. I'm using it this month to drive home a point. The resurrection of Jesus is real, not like the dead rabbit. Yet, we think the rabbit is still alive.

We have an incredible story to tell our friends, neighbors, family and anyone who will listen. A man, who was dead, came back to life three days later.

However, it doesn't end there. This resurrection from the dead isn't just an incredible story that one can find fascinating, but it is an event that can change our lives. The apostle Paul spoke of one aspect of the resurrection that we need to remember.

over

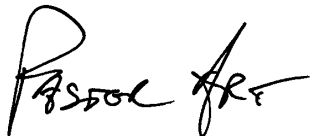


⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him. ¹⁰ The death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:8-11 NIV)

Just like the family who thought their little bunny rabbit was alive again, we sometimes think our sinful life is alive. In the resurrection Jesus died and rose again, proving His victory over sin and the grave. When we become believers, our old self dies, and we have a new life which also is victorious over sin. Our problem is that we point to the rabbit hutch and cringe in fear that our old lives have come back to life.

Let's live a life realizing our old self is dead. We have been reborn with a new life. Jesus, who rose from the dead, gave us the victory over sin.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Joe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.