



The Mercy, Love, and Grace of God!  
Resurrection Sunday! ☺  
April 5, 2015

## Happy Resurrection Sunday! He is Risen!

**Text: Eph 2:1-10**

**But God being rich in MERCY....! (Eph 2:4)**

Mercy is simply when God doesn't give us what we truly deserve. Why do we need mercy? Because we are sinners:

*Eph 2:1-3 ESV And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- (3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.*

1. Contrary to popular opinion, man is not basically good; man is bad from birth...
  - *1Co 15:22 ESV For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*
  - *Psa 51:5 ESV Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*
  - *Rom 3:23 ESV For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*
2. As sinners ("those who practice lawlessness", 1 John 3:4), we are physically alive but spiritual dead; in other words, because God is holy, Adam's sin, and consequently OUR sin, is offensive to Him.
  - *Gen 3:9-10 ESV But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" (10) And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."*
  - *Isa 59:1-2 ESV Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; (2) but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*
3. God, who is perfect in justice and is always right, has every right to punish the wicked. You and I are, by His perfect standard, wicked. And precious friends, there is a punishment that approaches:
  - *Heb 9:27 ESV And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.*
  - *2Co 5:10-11 ESV For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (11) Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.*
  - *Rev 20:11-15 ESV Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. (12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (13) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. (14) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (15) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*
4. But because of the rich mercy of God, He has chosen to pardon many!
5. *2Pe 3:9 ESV The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not*

wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

**Because of the GREAT love....! (Eph 2:4)**

This pardon is because of God's great love! How much does He love me you might ask? This much:

*Eph 2:4-5 ESV* But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved—

*Joh 3:16-21 ESV* "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. (20) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. (21) But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

1. **God the Father's love is so great, He sent God the Son!** His holy heart is not condemnation but salvation!
2. Although John 3:18-21 reads harshly to modern ears, understanding God's great love demonstrates it is anything but!
  - "Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, came to this earth through the virgin Mary, revealed the truths of God, lived the perfect life in our place, died on the cross to pay the penalty of sin that we might be forgiven and brought into relationship with God, rose again on the third day, and gives eternal life to those He has called who believe in Him by His grace and through faith. Those who reject Him will spend eternity apart from Him in Hell. At a future date, He will return to complete the restoration of God's creation."
  - *1Pe 2:22-24 ESV* [Christ] committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. (23) When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. (24) He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
  - *Isa 53:5 ESV* But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.
3. The Son of God took OUR punishment, died....and **ROSE AGAIN!** That is LOVE!!!!
  - *Mat 28:6 ESV* He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.
  - *1Co 15:20-23 ESV* But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. (21) For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. (22) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. (23) But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.
  - Without the Resurrection, there is no hope because we'd still be in our sins. (1 Cor 15:14, 17)
  - But He is alive! And because He lives, not only can we face tomorrow...we've been given tomorrow! What great love!!!! ☺

*Rom 6:4-5 ESV* We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

### **By GRACE you have been saved...!**

- So because of the great love of God, those who repent and believe inherit eternal life! The blood of Christ is “laid to the account” of sinners like us!
- Grace can be defined as “God’s unmerited favor; when He gives us what we don’t deserve!”
- It is grace that allows God to pardon our sin by His son’s sacrifice. It’s by love and grace that He calls us to Himself.

*Eph 2:5-9 ESV even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- (6) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (7) so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

1. At a minimum, the “coming ages” means not only now, but “then” when we see Him face to face. Note the language: grace one cannot measure! How great is the GRACE of God!
2. Precious friends, we cannot save ourselves! It is the gift of a loving, merciful God.

### **So What Now?**

**Repent and believe the Gospel...**the Good News of Christ, “...that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.” (1 Cor 15:3) To repent is to express godly sorrow over your sins. To believe is to come to Christ by faith for the forgiveness of sins. Let today be the day the curse of the Law is removed from your life (you can never keep it perfectly and you were born in sin), and turn to Christ alone for the salvation only He can bring! ☺ Then go and do good works...

1. Be baptized and join a good church.
2. Study the Scripture daily, pray, and worship.
3. Preach the Gospel and make disciples.
4. Disciple your family.
5. Show hospitality.
6. Give to those in need.
7. Forgive. Love. Repeat.

*Eph 2:10 ESV For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

**Happy Resurrection Sunday. May Christ bless you all indeed! ☺**

## Opportunities to Serve Others:

### CRCC Outreach Food Pantry Team

Please join us at Harvest Assembly's House of Blessing Benevolence Ministry each week to organize, package, and distribute food to those in need. All you need is a heart for Christ and a heart for the needy.

General time range needed: Monday 12 – 7 pm,  
Wednesday 9:30 – 3 pm, Friday 12 – 6 pm

*Helpers needed during March – May  
Contact Pastor Wilson for details.*

### Annual CPC Walk for Life

Mark your calendars for April 25, 2015 at the Norfolk Zoo!  
*More details to come!*

## Opportunities to Share the Gospel:

### Keep Sharing the Gospel!

Gospel tracts and tract bags are still available for your use! Please stop by the front office, see Pastor Wilson or Minister Profit to pick these up!

## CRCC Anniversary

Next Sunday will mark 18 years of wonderful blessing for CRCC!  
Let's take a moment and bless each other with kind words of encouragement during our anniversary!  
Also, bless Bishop McLeod with kind words or gifts for his faithfulness in ministry

**Happy Anniversary!**

## Events this Week:

Date:	Event:	Time:	Location
Friday April 10th	Call to Battle Conference	8:00 AM	Chesapeake Conference Center
Saturday April 11th	Call to Battle Conference	8:00 AM	Chesapeake Conference Center
Sunday April 12th	CRCC Anniversary	9:30 AM	Chesapeake Conference Center
Sunday April 19th	CRCC Sunday Service	9:30 AM	Calvary Revival Church

*Schedules for A Call to Battle Conference "Taking Back the Family" are available in the lobby and online  
Dress is business casual  
Breakfast/Lunch provided*

## Catechism

**Question:** What is the misery of man's fallen condition?

**Answer:** By their fall all mankind lost fellowship with God and brought His anger and curse on themselves. They are therefore subject to all the miseries of this life, to death itself, and to the pains of hell forever.