

## Because He Lives!

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John 14:19; Revelation 2:8—*Unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive.*

After 2,000 years, Christianity is alive and well! Christian movies are now very popular... Songs about Jesus Christ are still being written and sung. Many Christian books become best sellers.

No religion has been persecuted more than Christianity. Yet it has not only survived—**it has thrived!** How could a religion founded by a Jewish carpenter continue to influence multitudes over the centuries? There is only one answer—This Jewish carpenter named Jesus is the Son of God. Christianity is alive and well because Christ is **ALIVE** and well!!!

One Easter morning Pastor A.H. Ackley was listening to a church service on the radio while he was getting ready for church. He heard a minister on the radio say, "It's Easter, and it doesn't make any difference if Christ be risen or not..." Shocked, Ackley shouted, "It's a lie! He is risen!" He was inspired to write a song, and he began to write: "I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today. I know that He is living, whatever men may say..." AMEN!

That is what we celebrate today! We Pray... Preach... and Praise His name! Why? **BECAUSE HE LIVES.**

Turn to Ephesians 1:15-23. This is a prayer of Paul for the Christians at Ephesus. It is one continuous sentence. Everything Paul prays for is wrapped up in the glorious truth of verse 20—"**...he raised him from the dead...**"

➡ The fact Jesus Christ arose from the dead has several powerful implications regarding us—**Because He lives...**

**I. We have a VALUE that ENRICHES** (v. 18—"*...the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.*").

A. This is not the riches of our inheritance in Christ (v. 11), but the riches of Christ's inheritance **IN US!**

- What we get **defies description**—What God gets **transcends comprehension.**

1. We get eternal life... We get Christ indwelling within us... We get a home in heaven...
2. What does Jesus get—He gets **US** (John 17:6, 11, 12, 24)!

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God says, “Al Hughes, My gift to you is My beloved Son Jesus Christ.” Then the Father says to Jesus, “And Son, my gift to You is Al Hughes.” I think Jesus got the worse end of that deal!

It blows my mind that God saw something in me He wanted. The only way I can account for it is God’s amazing love and grace.

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- B. Notice the word “*riches*” in verse 18. In some way, we ENRICH Christ by being His inheritance. We are the jewels in His crown.
  - God is not focused on the billions of galaxies in the universe—He’s more interested in human life than in galactic life!
- C. Who needs “self-esteem” when you have “Christ’s esteem?” You don’t need someone constantly “*pumping you up.*” Think of who you are in Christ and the price He paid for you. It is the blood Jesus shed at Calvary that gives us our worth.
  - It doesn’t matter if no one clicks “like” on your Facebook page. What difference does it make when you realize you are the inheritance of Jesus Christ? Jesus LIKES YOU!

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**II. We have a POWER that ENERGIZES** (v. 19—“*what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe*”)

- A. How much power did it take for God to raise a crucified, muti-  
lated, and dead Jesus to newness of life? EXCEEDING GREAT  
POWER — SUPERNATURAL POWER.
  1. That is the same power it takes to raise you from being dead in trespasses and sins to newness of life.
  2. The same supernatural power that raised Jesus from the dead resides within you if you’re saved.

3. You have all the power you need to live for God... to overcome temptation and sin... to endure any trial that may come your way. You just need to tap into it!
- B. The greatest manifestation of God's power.
1. The power of God is seen in the **MACRO** universe—The sun, moon and stars in heaven.
  2. God's power is seen in the **MICRO** universe as you look at an atom—with its protons and neutrons—contained in an inconceivable tiny space and know God upholds them all from flying apart.
  3. God's greatest power is not seen skyward or earthward, but in His power to *us-ward* in saving our souls!
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WHAT TOOK MORE POWER? Power to create the universe or the power to redeem your soul? In creation, God merely spoke it into existence—“*Let there be light...*”

But our redemption required considerable more power on God's part. To save us, God had to step off of His throne in glory... leave heaven... come to this sin-sick planet via a virgin birth... suffer on an old rugged cross and rise again after three days. HE DID IT ALL. All we need to do is receive it!

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### III. We have a **CONFIDENCE** that **EMBOLDENS** us.

- A. I have confidence because of the DEMONSTRATION of His power (vs. 19-20—“*...his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead*”).
1. Man at his very worst — brutalizing Christ— Scourging Him... Smiting Him... Plucking out His beard... Mocking Him... Spitting in His face... Stripping Him naked... Nailing Him to the cross... and finally laying His mutilated corpse in a cold dark tomb.
  2. But early that first Easter morning, JESUS GOT UP! I said, on the third day, JESUS GOT UP! Did you hear me? JESUS GOT UP!

- He got up from the grave clothes... rolled the stone away... walked out of the grave... looked the devil in the face and said, “Is that the best you can do? Was that your best shot?”
    - Christ’s glorious victory over the grave gives me confidence that I’ll also have victory. Up from the grave He arose! Hallelujah!
- B. I have confidence because of the **DOMINION** of His **position** (vs. 20-21). He not only rose from the dead, but He also ascended to His throne in heaven! He is King of Kings.
1. He is **far above all SPIRITUAL power**. No demon is a match for Him. We need not fear demons. You have the Spirit of Christ living inside you!
  2. He is **far above all SECULAR power**. It doesn’t matter what government— Whether it be a Babylonian despot... a Persian ruler ... a Greek conqueror... a Roman Emperor... a British Monarch... a Muslim Dictator... an American President. Jesus Christ is Head and Lord over them all. They will all answer to Him and will bow their knee before Him!
    - There is nothing above Him. Everything is **UNDER HIS FEET!**

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**IV. We have a PROMISE that ENSURES us** (John 14:19—“*Because I live, ye shall live also.*”)

- A. **Four great human enemies**, the devil, sin, the world and the grave. Jesus defeated all four—At Calvary, Jesus defeated sin and the devil. By raising from the dead, Jesus defeated the world and the grave (John 16:33; 1 John 5:4)
- B. **JESUS victory ensures my victory. BECAUSE HE LIVES—I LIVE ALSO. BECAUSE JESUS RAISED from the dead— EVERY SAINT WILL RAISE ALSO.**

**SUMMATION:** Winston Churchill planned his own funeral held at St. Paul’s Cathedral. According to his instructions, a bugler was positioned high in the dome of St. Paul’s. After the benediction he played the haunt-

ing melody of “Taps.” This signaled that Churchill’s day had come to an end. As soon as “Taps” ended, Churchill had instructed another bugler, placed on the other side of the dome, to play Reveille—It’s time to get up in the morning [<https://youtu.be/odFsXRATQ0>]. That was Churchill’s testimony that the last note of his time on earth was not “Taps,” a final end, but “Reveille,” a new beginning.

I can imagine Gabriel playing “Taps” as Christ’s body is laid in the tomb. But on Sunday morning, Gabriel sounds “Reveille”—Time for Jesus to get up, step out of that tomb in victory.

Another trumpet will sound soon. It will be the trumpet of the archangel when Christ comes again playing “*CHARGE!*” [<https://youtu.be/TZrg8Dxgkf8>]

**SONG: *Because He Lives!*** [<https://youtu.be/bw51VmZGCE4>]