

TEXT: 2 Timothy 2:8a

THEME: REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST: HE HAS RISEN!

Dear victorious Christians because Jesus Christ rose from the dead:

When the women arrived at the tomb early Easter morning, the angels who greeted them did so with three unbelievable words of truth: HE HAS RISEN! And then one of the angels told them that this miracle should come as no surprise to them: “**Remember how he told you . . .**” (Lk 24:6).

Remember, remember, remember. How many times did Jesus say that to his followers during his earthly ministry? Probably not enough! Probably not enough for followers who are described in Scripture as being *slow to believe, afraid*, people with *doubts arising in their minds*. Remember . . .

St. Paul, whose words we have before us this joyous morning, also told young pastor Timothy: “**Remember.**” These were some of the last words that St. Paul ever wrote. He knew that his work on earth for the Lord Jesus was nearing completion, that he soon would suffer a martyr’s death at the hands of the Romans. What does a person about to die think about? Childhood joys? Memories of teenage freedom? Professional accomplishments? Friends? Family?

This is what was on Paul’s mind: “**Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David**” (2 Timothy 2:8a). [Prayer before sermon.]

In contrast to what much of the religious world thinks that we must always DO something to be right with God, the heart of the Christian faith is remembering—remembering what God has done for us. The main message that God has for us is not “Go and do!” but rather “See and believe!” That is what we remember this Easter morning—the great things our Lord Jesus Christ has done for us so that through faith in him we may have the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We really can’t do anything else, can we? What else can we do this morning but go to the empty tomb, gaze inside, and then ponder with amazement what this means for us? Nothing! There’s nothing else we can do, and there is nothing else we need to do. God in his rich grace has done everything for us. He defeated sin, death, and hell. He rose in victory—the guarantee that sin is paid for, the guarantee that by his power he will also raise from death all who trust in him. It is he, as St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians, who “**gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**” (15:57).

Listen to what God the Holy Spirit says through St. Paul this morning: “**REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST.**” “What’s in a name?” Shakespeare asked. Much! A person’s name represents everything they are, everything they have done, everything they stand for. We hear names and immediately mental images form in our minds: LeBron James, Gretchen Whittmer, Bruno Mars. . . .

Remember Jesus. God himself gave that name to his Son, the name that means “Savior.” Jesus came to this earth in the quietness of Christmas on a violent mission. He came to do battle with the forces of hell. It was a struggle to the death. And by the end, Jesus the Son of God lay dead in a tomb.

But **remember** that **Jesus is the Christ!** *Christ* means “the Anointed One.” This is the one whom God handpicked and anointed to be our champion. He is the Messiah; all the prophecies of Scripture are fulfilled in him. There is no mistake. Jesus is the *Christ*; this does not just mean he was the one that God appointed to suffer and die; he is also the one God appointed to rise and live forever and ever.

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead. Out of the tomb has come the one who paid for all your sins. He carried them to the cross. He left them in the tomb. Your sins are gone! They are dead! They are buried! Out of the tomb came a holy Lord Jesus Christ. On the cross he had been covered with our sins, and he had suffered death. But now he is alive—the proof that God has accepted his sacrifice. Jesus’ resurrection is the very foundation of our faith. That’s what we celebrate today. His resurrection gives us certainty about our forgiveness and all the promises God has made. Look what God has done for you! You can trust him with your life and with your soul!

Around 1930, a Russian communist leader named Bukharin journeyed from Moscow to Kiev. His mission was to address a huge reeducation assembly. His subject: atheism. For a solid hour he aimed his heavy verbal artillery at Christianity, hurling argument and ridicule. At last he was finished and viewed what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of men’s faith. “Are there any questions?” Bukharin demanded. A solitary man arose and asked permission to speak. He mounted the platform and moved close to the communist. For a while he slowly scanned the audience. At last he shouted the ancient Orthodox greeting, “Christ is risen!” (“*Christos anestay!*”) The vast assembly arose as one man, and the response came crashing like the sound of an avalanche: “He is risen indeed!” (“*Aleythos anestay!*”)

Finally, **REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST, . . . DESCENDED FROM DAVID.** He comes from a king. He is a king. He is King of kings and Lord of lords, as we’ll sing in a moment. Heaven is his throne and earth is his footstool. He commands and rules all things by his powerful Word. And this King with all power protects you. In this same letter to Timothy, St. Paul wrote, “**The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom**” (2 Ti 4:18).

But there’s another reason we rejoice this morning that **Jesus Christ is descended from David.** David was a king, but David was also a man. So is our Lord Jesus Christ. It wasn’t just the Son of God who came out of the tomb on Easter morning but also the Son of Man. It was a human being, fully like us, who rose from the dead. By his resurrection we are given a glimpse of the glory that will one day be ours when Christ, by his almighty power, calls us out of our graves to glory everlasting.

Remember always what God has done for you. **REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST, RAISED FROM THE DEAD, DESCENDED FROM DAVID.** Amen.