

# Easter 2017

## 1 Thessalonians 1.9-10

May be here because you are a Christian, curious, culture, or coerced

- We gather every Sunday because we believe the Bible and what it teaches about Jesus – right at the heart of this today is 1 Thes. 1.9-10

### Rescuing King

- Rescue from what? Not from circumstances or consequences, *Rescue from wrath*
  - But I don't like the idea of "wrath" because it makes God seem mean – indifference would be mean, wrath is the appropriate reaction to wrong
- *He rescues us from wrath because of our sin*
  - "But I'm not a sinner" – 10 commandments exercise
  - "But I'm a good person" – scales of justice – STOP SIGN
  - The problem is not an issue of good and bad
  - The wages of sin is death – Jesus is in the business of rescuing people from not only the debt of their sin but the death that comes as a consequence
- *Our response: Agree with God about our sin*

### Resurrected King

- Dead people can't rescue anyone – but He did die to rescue us
- *1 Cor. 15.3-4*
- *He rose again*
  - Fundamental claim of Christianity – what makes us different than any other religion
    - UK Survey: "72% of Xns believe Jesus rose from dead. 28% don't!"
  - Unexpected claim – we don't talk about people rising again
    - Fact is compelling because of the transformation and martyrdom of His followers (JW walking neighborhood)
- *He died for our sins*
  - Not as an example, political revolutionary, victim of power, but as a substitute
  - He GIVES His life – it is not taken from Him
  - God the Son bears our sin to pay our debt
    - 12 Lashes – 3 Nails – all for love
    - Worthy of love? It creates worth / belief by the freedom of its choice
  - Both according to the Scriptures – no plan B
- *He was buried*
  - Brené Brown's Day 2 – Pixar Second Act – Easter Saturday
  - Day of darkness and doubt – are You who You say? Yes (but not who I think You are)

- Will you do what you say? Yes (but not what I expect You to do)
- Gives us room to get out of our shock, identify our grief, name our insecurities, develop character, make room for hope, and trust God despite what we see
- “Easter Saturday reminds us darkness, doubt, pain, and suffering aren’t signs of God’s abandonment of us but His entering into suffering with us” HOPE
- *Our response: believe what Jesus has done for us*

*Agree with God about my sin*

*Believe what Jesus has done*

*Commit of my life to Him – turning away from silly idols to serve God*

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is your earliest Easter memory? What is your favorite Easter memory? What traditions did you grow up with? Did you begin when you were older?
2. In the sermon, Trent said love and wrath were compatible but love and indifference were not. Why is indifference the opposite of love? How have you seen indifference expressed itself in relationships? What was the outcome? In the instances you thought of, what would a loving response have looked like?
3. People can object to the idea of wrath against sin by taking themselves out of the equation. They do so by arguing that they are not sinners or are good people generally. What do the following passages say to that? Romans 3.21-23, 1 Cor. 6.9-11 (cf. Eph. 5.4-5), Ephesians 2.11-13, Galatians 5.19-21, 2 Timothy 3.1-5
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15.12-21. What does Paul say about the fact that Jesus has been raised from the dead? What are the consequences if He has not been raised? What are the consequences if He has?
5. The core of the Christian message is that Jesus has died and has risen. Why can we not separate the two? What was accomplished on Good Friday? What was accomplished Easter Sunday? (refer to 1 Corinthians 15.3-4)
6. Easter Saturday can be a dark day that is full of doubt. What do you think it looked like for the disciples of Jesus? What does Easter Saturday teach us about the nature of faith? What does it teach us about God? Can you think of a time when you felt abandoned? How (if any way), did you relate to God in the middle of it? What was the outcome of that season?