

Daily Devotions

Day 1: Never Give Up on Any Person

Reading: Galatians 1:13-24

Paul's transformation from persecutor to proclaimer stands as history's greatest testimony that no one is beyond God's reach. The very man who "violently persecuted God's church" became its most influential advocate. When you look at someone trapped in addiction, rebellion, or spiritual darkness, remember Paul's story. God specializes in impossible cases. The same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead can resurrect the spiritually dead around you. Perhaps you've given up on a prodigal child, a hardened spouse, or a wayward friend. Today, renew your prayers and hope. As long as they're breathing, their story isn't finished. God's grace is sufficient for the worst of sinners. Who have you given up on? Commit to praying for them daily this week.

Day 2: God Redeems Our Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:28-39

"God works for the good of those who love him" doesn't mean everything that happens is good. It means God can take anything and work it toward our ultimate good. This isn't wishful thinking but settled knowledge. Notice Paul doesn't say God causes all things, but that He works in all things. Your painful divorce, financial collapse, or health crisis didn't originate with God, but He will not waste it. Like a master craftsman, He redeems broken pieces into beautiful mosaics. The cross looked like history's greatest tragedy until Sunday morning revealed it as redemption's masterpiece. Your current trial may feel final, but God isn't finished. He's working behind the scenes, weaving purpose from pain. What painful experience are you struggling to trust God with today?

Day 3: Death Has Lost Its Sting

Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Paul's defiant mockery of death—"O death, where is your victory?"—reveals the Christian's unique perspective. Death appears final, but resurrection changes everything. Jesus didn't merely survive death; He conquered it. The grave couldn't hold Him, and it won't hold you either. This transforms how we face mortality. Death becomes not a period but a comma, not an ending but a doorway. When you stand at a graveside or face your own mortality, remember Easter morning. The same power that raised Jesus will raise all who trust in Him. Death is certain, but for believers, it's been transformed from enemy to defeated foe. We can face it with calm assurance rather than paralyzing fear. How does the resurrection change your perspective on death and grief?

Day 4: The God Who Brings Resurrection from Crucifixion

Reading: Luke 24:1-12

The women approached the tomb expecting death but encountered resurrection. "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?" This question echoes through centuries: Why do we search for hope in lifeless places? Why do we assume our situations are beyond redemption? God specializes in turning Good Fridays into Easter mornings. Your crucifixion moment—that devastating loss, humiliating failure, or crushing disappointment—may be the very place God plans to demonstrate resurrection power. The disciples' hope was past tense: "We had hoped he was the Messiah." But God wasn't finished. When circumstances scream "it's over," remember the empty tomb. God's greatest works often follow our darkest moments. What "dead" situation in your life needs resurrection hope today?

Day 5: Living in Resurrection Power

Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-14

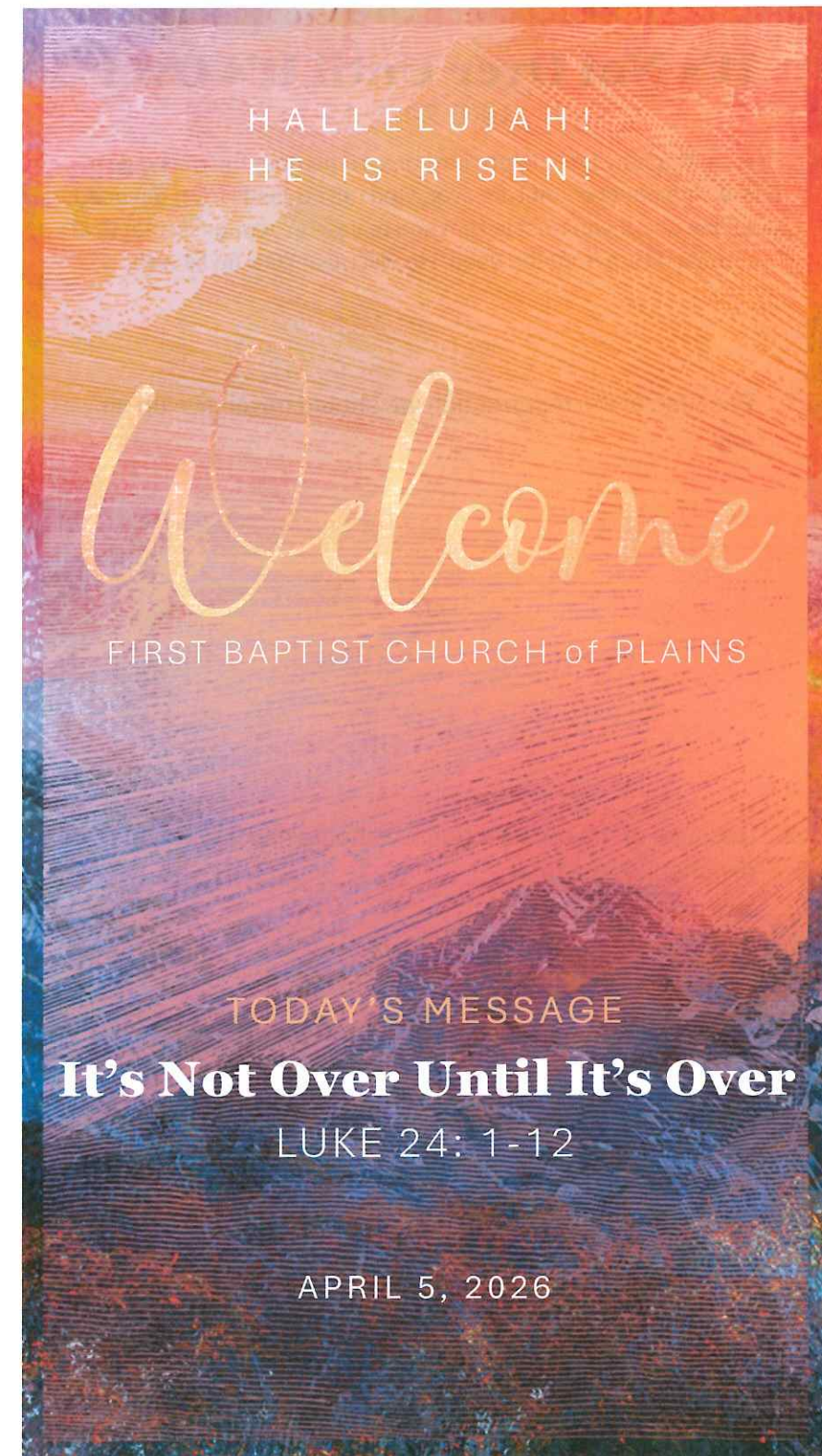
Christ "broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality." This isn't just future hope; it's present reality. Resurrection power isn't reserved for the afterlife—it's available now. You can live until you die, then live forever. This means approaching each day with unshakeable confidence that God is working, even when you can't perceive it. Like the earth spinning at 1,000 miles per hour without us feeling it, God moves in ways beyond our perception. Don't let temporary defeats convince you of permanent failure. Don't let current darkness eclipse eternal light. The resurrection declares that nothing is over until God says it's over. Walk today in that confidence. How will you live differently today, knowing resurrection power is available to you?

Deacons on Call

Cleve Bearden and Marc Traweek

Weekly Events

- **Worship:** Sundays at 9:45 AM
- **Small Groups:** Sundays at 11 AM
- **Deep Dive:** Wednesdays at Noon and 6:45 PM
- **First Kids:** Wednesdays at 5:30
- **First Youth:** Wednesdays: MS 5:30 PM; HS 6:45 PM



It's Not Over Until It's Over

LUKE 24:1-12

No matter how final death may look, remember the message of Easter: It's not over until it's over. God raised Jesus from the dead! And one day, if you trust in Him and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, He will raise YOU up as well.

1. Because of the resurrection we should never give up on any _____.
2. Because of the resurrection we should never write off any experience as a total _____.

a. God is at work in our world _____.

b. God works for _____.

c. God works for _____.

3. Because of the resurrection we should never despair in the face of _____.

Scripture References (In order of use): Luke 24:21; Luke 24:5-6; Galatians 1:13; John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:16; James 1:2; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 9:27; Psalm 90:12; 2 Timothy 1:10; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Referenced Works: Addresses on the Gospel of Luke (H. A. Ironside); Luke Volume 2: That You May Know the Truth (Kent Hughes); Luke 9:51-24:53 (Darrell Bock); Luke (Trent Butler)

Discussion Questions

1. Share about a time when you faced a situation that seemed hopeless, but things turned around. What did that experience teach you?
2. Read Luke 24:21. The disciples had given up hope that Jesus was the Messiah. When have you been tempted to give up hope on someone you care about? What made you feel that way?
3. If Paul, a violent persecutor of Christians, could be saved, what does this tell us about God's reach? Who in your life seems "too far gone" to be reached by God?
4. Read Romans 8:28 together. What are the three basic truths that flow from this verse according to the sermon? Which one resonates most with you right now?
5. Can you identify a difficult season in your past that God has since used for good? How did you see His hand at work, even if you couldn't perceive it at the time?
6. Patrick said God promises "not exemption, but redemption." How does this differ from the "health and wealth" gospel? Why is this distinction important?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 15:55-57. Paul mocks death rather than fearing it. What gives him this confidence? How does the resurrection change our relationship with death?
8. Close in prayer. Pray for specific people in your lives who need to encounter the risen Christ. Pray for faith to trust God in difficult circumstances. Thank God for the resurrection and the hope it provides.

Practical Applications

- Identify someone you've given up on spiritually. Commit to praying for them daily this week. Ask God to show you one practical way to demonstrate His love to them.
- Journal about a current difficulty you're facing. Write out Romans 8:28 and place it somewhere you'll see daily. List 3 ways God might use this situation for good (even if you can't see them yet).