

EASTER SUNDAY ~ April 8, 2012



PHILIPPIANS: To Know Christ and Make Him Known

“Seeing with New Eyes” Philippians 2:5-11

Because of Easter, with Christians throughout the world we shout, “Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!”

Most of us are aware that the resurrection of Jesus from the grave is of such profound importance that it should give us “new eyes.” Because Jesus lives, we should view God, ourselves, and others entirely differently. Because Jesus reigns, we should be completely optimistic about our troubles, our challenges, and the problems around us in the world.

So why is this optimism in such short supply in the church today?

As you work through this week’s study, may the empty tomb give you new eyes through which to see the world and new joy in knowing Christ and making him known.



KNOWING GOD

Read Philippians 2:5-11. As we learned last week, the beautiful hymn contained in these verses follows Christ from his pre-incarnate state (vs. 6) to his state of humiliation (vss. 7-8), and finally to his state of exaltation (vss. 9-11). Why should every knee bow before Jesus Christ?

What does Paul mean when he says that “Jesus Christ is Lord” (vs. 11)?

What are some practical implications of Christ’s exaltation?



GROWING TOGETHER

When you think about Christ’s resurrection and ascension, in what specific ways is your faith encouraged or strengthened?

If you lived more consistently by the truth that Jesus is reigning over the world and one day will judge all persons and nations, what would be different about you?

Are you normally acutely aware of the resurrection of Jesus?
Why or why not?



SERVING OTHERS

How should the exaltation of Christ affect your willingness to serve other people instead of living for your own advancement?

Because Christ washed the disciples' feet, what will you do this week?



IN YOUR FAMILY...

- a) What can you do to reinforce the resurrection of Jesus in your home this week? For some great online ideas, visit <http://life2getherblog.com/2010/03/24/family-easter-resources/>
- b) Even though Easter is a season of celebration, for those grieving the loss of a loved one it can be a time of sadness. This week, can your family encourage the heart of someone at UPC who has lost a spouse, parent, child, or dear friend?

SERMON NOTES