



As we step into April, we do so on the heels of Easter. It is Easter that serves as a reminder to the church and the world of Christ's resurrection from the dead and the transformation we experience by putting our faith in Him and His resurrection. Christ's resurrection was essential to the Apostle Paul's life, as he writes,

<sup>10</sup> My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, <sup>11</sup> assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead. Philippians 3:10-11 (CSB)

Easter for us as the church is a time of renewal and hope, individually and collectively, as we reflect on the profound implications of His victory over sin and death and respond in faith to the call made to us that we would come and follow after Jesus as our Christ (Savior & Lord). So, as Easter is behind us on the calendar, may it ever be before us in our daily lives. Just as Jesus was raised from death to life and emerged from the tomb, may we get up and move forward as we embrace the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ. Our faith is in Christ, not in sinful man, faulty methods, or insufficient means.

As we move past the Easter season, may we be encouraged to deepen our relationship with God by spending time in prayer, meditating on His word, and seeking His guidance in all we do. May we also not forget the significance of our unity as a church family and the importance of loving one another as Christ loves us. Let us also be mindful of our mission as a church to reach out to those in need, sharing the message of hope and redemption and personifying the love of Christ in our community and beyond because of the power of the resurrection that goes with us beyond Easter.

Spring has sprung, and we have been raised to reflect a life redeemed by God in Christ.

<sup>4</sup>Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4 (CSB)

So, as we move forward, let's walk with a "spring" in our step, a step put down with newness, in faith, by grace, for God's glory, and the good of those around us.

***"I thought I could have leaped from earth to heaven at one spring when I first saw my sins drowned in the Redeemer's blood." —C.H. Spurgeon***