

New Normal: Physical Resurrection & No More Social Distancing

2019-04-12 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

10:00—Happy Easter!

- I'll say, "He is risen!" and then you say, "He is risen indeed!"
- "He is risen!" "He is risen indeed!"
- Welcome to any visitors we have—friends, family, and neighbors! Welcome, we're so glad you're here.
- Please stick around at 11am for our After Party!
- Right now I want to invite you to come back next Sunday morning, same time, same place, to help us celebrate Tallgrass Church's Two Year Birthday Party!
- Invitation to LIFE Groups
- Feel free to use that Chat function to share with Everyone or even to talk with individuals on here.
- We'll Mute everyone and Spotlight Emily. Crank your speakers and sing along! We introduced this song weeks ago with an eye to Easter...and here we are!

SPOTLIGHT EMILY for KING OF KINGS

King of Kings

Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, Scott Ligertwood. #7127647

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings

To reveal the Kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross

For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty

Praise forever to the King of kings

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death

And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint

By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings
Praise forever to the King of kings

CANCEL SPOTLIGHT, then SPOTLIGHT ELISHA

10:05—Welcome Miss Elisha Hillegeist, our Sprouts Coordinator!

- Easter Egg Template—
<https://tallgrass.church/sites/default/files/uploads/2020/04/Easter%20Egg%20Template.pdf>
- #MHKEasterEggWalk
- VeggieTales: 'Twas The Night Before Easter—<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=loWPgIN04h8>

CANCEL SPOTLIGHT

10:10—Mingle Questions:

- What has COVID-19 taken from you?
- What has COVID-19 given to you?

SPOTLIGHT MYSELF

10:15—New Normal: Physical Resurrection & No More Social Distancing

We're convinced that God is inviting us into something new and profound through this unique season: personal renewal! This current season of disruption could be that divine invitation.

So, we're going to slow way down together, focusing specifically on rediscovering and reclaiming personal habits and practices that have proven from generation to generation to lead us each into personal renewal, growth, and vital connection with God Himself.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 ⁷“Blessed is the person who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He or she is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

SPOTLIGHT Dave & have him pray!

SPOTLIGHT KASSI CHAPMAN for her COVID-19 Testimony

How is God inviting you into healthy changes and healthy changes for your family during this season?

Reflections on the COVID-19 era:

- I've actually enjoyed my day to day, extra time with family, creative ways of connecting, and trying to establish some new normal that can continue when things go back to normal. However, I'm longing for connection!
- What has COVID-19 taken from me?
 - I miss the fist bumps at Konza Strength after each workout.
 - I miss getting my large Bakehouse blend at Radina's Bakehouse every Friday morning for my two-hour time alone with God, which we call tawG around here.
 - I miss hugs from many of y'all. I miss pushing some of you who aren't quite yet huggers to maybe one day become a hugger. I know some have commented that COVID-19 may gift them the desire to be a hugger after all.
 - Using technology has been amazing but I missed being in person when Eric Brown shared his song at our Good Friday Vigil on Zoom.
- What has COVID-19 given me?
 - Consistent devotions with Maddox!

The Apostle Paul and Social Distancing during his imprisonment

- Put yourself in the Apostle Paul's shoes as he writes from a Roman prison, socially distant from everyone except the soldier he is chained to.
- How did Paul deal with Social Distancing?
- Creativity in continuing his work
 - Paul wrote 14 of the 27 books of the New Testament
 - He wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon while socially distancing...in prison.

- New relationships (e.g. Praetorian Guard)

Philippians 1:12-14 ¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial (praetorian) guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Philippians 4:4-7 ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- How did Paul deal with anxiety during social distancing? Hope in the Resurrection of Jesus AND his future Resurrection!

Philippians 1:18b-21 ^{18b}Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:22-26 ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

- The only reason that Paul had this kind of hope is because Jesus rose from the dead that first Easter morning!
- Does anyone remember the story of the Gladiator Spartacus?

The War of Spartacus in 73 BC

- From Wiki: The War of Spartacus was the last in a series of slave rebellions against the Roman Republic. The War of Spartacus was the only one directly to threaten the Roman heartland of Italia. It was particularly alarming to Rome because its military seemed powerless to suppress it.
- The revolt began in 73 BC, with the escape of around 70 slave-gladiators from a gladiator school in Capua; they easily defeated the small Roman force sent to recapture them. Within two years, they had been joined by some 120,000 men, women and children; the able-bodied adults of this band were a surprisingly effective armed force that repeatedly showed they could withstand or defeat the Roman military.
- The Roman Senate grew increasingly alarmed at the slave-army's continued military successes. Eventually Rome fielded an army of eight legions under the harsh but effective leadership of Marcus Licinius Crassus. The war ended in 71 BC when, after a long and bitter fighting retreat before the legions of Crassus and the realization that the legions of Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus and Marcus Terentius Varro Lucullus were moving in to entrap them, the armies of Spartacus launched their full strength against Crassus' legions and were utterly defeated. Of the survivors, some 6,000 were crucified along the Appian Way.

VIRTUAL BACKGROUND—CRUCIFIXION ON THE APPIAN WAY

- While most of the rebel slaves were killed on the battlefield, these 6,000 survivors were captured by the legions of Crassus. All 6,000 were crucified along the Appian Way from Rome to Capua.
- And yet no one remembers a single person's name who died by crucifixion before 33 AD. But we know the Name of a Man who was shamefully put to death by crucifixion. You know who that person is?
- Without the real, historical, physical Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the carpenter out of backwoods Nazareth, we wouldn't even know His Name today! I believe that's true. He would just be a nameless victim of Roman crucifixion along with thousands of others who died the most shameful death invented by humanity.

John 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

- Sin is the global pandemic that has caused social distancing between us and our Creator and also between us and one another. Sin is why there's so much relational strife in the world.
- The Gospel is that Jesus lived the perfect life that we should and never could live, and that He died and was buried in the ground like a Seed, and emerged from the ground totally transformed to pave the way for your and my total transformation! And one day social distancing between us and God and us and one another will totally be gone.
- Let's sing together about this Gospel.

SPOTLIGHT EMILY

Jesus Paid It All

Alex Nifong Elvina M. Hall John Thomas Grape. #4689508

I hear the Savior say,
 "Thy strength indeed is small
 Child of weakness, watch and pray
 Find in me thine all in all"

Jesus paid it all
 All to him I owe
 Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find
 Thy power and thine alone
 can change the leper's spots
 and melt the heart of stone

Jesus paid it all
 All to him I owe
 Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow

Oh praise the one who paid my debt
 and raised this life up from the dead
(repeat)

And when before the throne
 I stand in Him complete
 I'll lay my trophies down
 All down at Jesus' feet

Jesus paid it all
 All to him I owe
 Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow
 Sin had left a crimson stain
 He washed it white as snow

New Normal: Physical Resurrection & No More Social Distancing

- As the loss of life goes up and the economic wealth of the world goes down yet the canals of Venice flow clear and pollution in China dissipates, all of creation is groaning with eager longing for Resurrection!

Romans 8:22-25 ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- The NEW NORMAL will be when everything is awesome!

Luke 13:18-19 ¹⁸He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? ¹⁹It is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches."

- Upside Down Kingdom of God
- The smallest of seeds

VIRTUAL BACKGROUND—NEW GROWTH

- There are principles here about the Kingdom of God.
- Things start small. Micromovements are profound. I'm always looking for new growth in my houseplants and in my neighborhood.
- The end game is to bless others. Love others. Serve others. Bear fruit for others. Provide safety and shelter for others. Sacrificial, self-giving love is the goal of the Kingdom of God...and that's most clearly demonstrated in the death of Christ.
- Social distancing will go away totally when Jesus returns because of the Resurrection. But Resurrection requires death!

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 ⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 ¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

VIRTUAL BACKGROUND—PINK SUPERMOON

- I drove out near Pillsbury Crossing last Tuesday night to look at the Pink Supermoon with my seven year old son, Maddox. I long to be among the stars!
- You might say, "I just can't believe in the Resurrection." Well, I'd challenge you to consider more deeply the claims of the Bible. I remember in January when Maris shared with me about people she knew in China who were being quarantined because of COVID-19 and I thought, "I'm so thankful that we are the furthest spot on earth from Wuhan as possible. This will never get to us." I can't believe that we're living in such a surreal time that feels like a sci-fi movie...yet here it is. The evidence is all around me and you. And I believe it.
- I'd challenge you to also consider the evidence for the historic person of Jesus Christ, His real death on a Roman cross, and His historically substantiated physical Resurrection from the tomb on Easter morning!

Resurrection Resources:

- *Discovering God: Exploring the Possibilities of Faith* by Dennis McCallum
- *The Case for Easter: A Journalist Investigates Evidence for the Resurrection* by Lee Strobel
- *The Case for the Resurrection* by Gary Habermas and Mike Licona

Prepare now for a new normal—when Christ returns and you’re physically resurrected and social distancing is never a thing anymore!

Back to our key passage for this season of establishing a New Normal: Personal Renewal in Pandemic

Jeremiah 17:7-8 ⁷“Blessed is the person who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸He or she is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Paul’s Approach to Preparation

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

What’s your next intentional step this Easter during the COVID-19 era?

- Respond to the Gospel for the first time. How amazing would it be to look back on this time and be able to say, “Remember COVID-19? That’s when I began a relationship with Jesus!”
- Run more intentionally in your faith.

Because He Lives

Gloria Gaither William J. Gaither. #16880

God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

Corporate COVID-19 prayer!

From The Church of England Coronavirus (COVID-19) liturgy and prayer resources

Let us pray to God,
 who alone makes us dwell in safety:
 For all who are affected by coronavirus,
 through illness or isolation or anxiety,
 that they may find relief and recovery:
 Lord, hear us,
“Lord, graciously hear us.”

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
 and shaping national policies,
 that they may make wise decisions:
 Lord, hear us,
“Lord, graciously hear us.”

For doctors, nurses, and medical researchers,
 that through their skill and insights
 many will be restored to health:
 Lord, hear us,
“Lord, graciously hear us.”

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
 for the gravely ill and the dying,
 that they may know your comfort and peace:
 Lord, hear us,
“Lord, graciously hear us.”

For personal renewal,
 that we would establish a new normal now,
 so when things go back to normal
 we never go back to normal,
 but instead live in greater anticipation
 of physical resurrection
 when there is no more
 social distancing ever again.
 Lord, hear us,
“Lord, graciously hear us.”

1 Corinthians 15:53-54a ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ^{54a} When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

1 Corinthians 15:54b-57 ^{54b} “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

We commend ourselves,
and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

**“accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.”**

11:00—After Party!

- Share more on the Mingle Question: What has COVID-19 taken from you? What has COVID-19 given to you?
- During this COVID-19 crisis, what’s been a frustration? What’s been a joy?
- What’s a new habit you’re trying to implement?
- What do you need from this community, big or small?
- What prayer request do you carry with you that we can lift up?
- How can we rejoice with you? How can we mourn with you?