

From the Pastor's Desk:

Deciphering Deliverance

“But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed like nonsense.” – Luke 24:11.

Easter. It really is the most profound of all church holidays. What Christ predicted and prophesied he would do, really came to fruition in a startling display of God's power over and against the strategies of men.

As a kid, Easter morning was a time of joy at my home church. The atmosphere was vibrant. I could count on seeing more of my friends. I could expect a time of fellowship, with some kind of breakfast or brunch being served. The worship service was resounding with proclamations of, “He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!” I knew the children's sermon would be full. Celebration was all around.

But it all didn't start this way with Easter. To begin with, we didn't really know what to be excited about. The disciples heard the good news but had great trouble deciphering it. Reports from the women just didn't make any sense. How could Jesus' body simply not be there? How could the stone, something which would take a group of men to move, simply now be rolled away? How could any of this be possible, as they had all seen their Lord crucified in utter defeat just days ago?

When I taught Sunday School and VBS, I used to see worksheets with writing that was hard to discern. Letters were turned around, grammar ignored and words misspelled. But they were just learning to write, and some deciphering was needed.

We need to decipher in our lives too. We might look around and see nonsense. We can't always make sense of our lives, or understand how God may be working. But we know He is, because of his Word. Consider all the confusion and consternation of Easter morning. The joy and celebration did not come at first, but had to be deciphered.

We consider how God is working at various moments in our lives, and in various situations. God brings hope, encouragement and peace, when it sometimes doesn't seem possible. He brings new life and a new perspective through the empty tomb. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! And along with Him, we find that our lives too are reborn and rejuvenated because of what is deciphered from that empty tomb. Let the Good News abound!

Happy Easter!

Pastor Chris

