

Our Theme Verse for 2017

1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Rainbow Forest Mission Statement

Connecting the Disconnected
to Christ, Community and the Call

Our Purpose

To glorify God in
everything we say and do

Connecting Through the Word

Easter Sunday

**Resurrection Words
for Hope**

Matthew 28:1-10

1 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.

5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.

6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

**Dr. Harold Willington writes in his
12 Essential Doctrines Book:**

The resurrection of Christ is the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence of the Christian faith. The sign of Christianity is really not the cross, but an empty tomb! If one denies the resurrection, he is forced to six horrible conclusions.

- All Gospel preaching has been, is now, and always will be, utterly and completely useless.
- All past, present, and future faith is futile
- All preachers become notorious liars
- All living Christians are still in their sins
- All departed Christians are in hell
- All reason and purpose for life itself is destroyed

The words of the angel for the women who came to the tomb that first Easter morning 2000 years ago!!!!

The Word of Comfort

The Word of Criticism

The Word of Clarification

The Word of Confirmation

The Word of Commission

1. The Word of Comfort

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for I know that you seek Jesus, which was crucified" (Matthew 28:5).

This Word Calmed Their
Fearful, Worried And Perplexed Hearts

"Fear not" (Matthew 28:5).
"Be not alarmed" (Mark 16:6).

This word showed the angel's

Awareness and Knowledge Of Their Purpose

"I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified"
(Matthew 28:5)

God knows the thoughts and intents of the heart....

The motivations and purposes of our hearts that
lead us to Christian service....

2. A Word of Criticism or Word of Rebuke

*"Why do you seek the living among the dead?"
(Luke 24:5).*

This question was a rebuke. The women are not being rebuked for their seeking of Christ. They are rebuked for where they sought Him.

This rebuking question by the angel has wide application to people in every age.

So many are seeking life in
the dead things of the world.

3. A Word of Clarification

*"He is not here; for he is risen" (Matthew 28:6).
The women "were much perplexed" (Luke 24:4)*

This news about the risen Christ is the great announcement of Easter. Christ is alive, He has risen from the grave. Death could not hold Him.

4. A Word of Confirmation

The two confirmations of the resurrection

The Saying Of Christ

Luke 24:5-8

5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead?"

*6 He is not here, but has risen. **Remember how he told you**, while he was still in Galilee,*

7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise."

8 And they remembered his words,

The saying of Christ was,
of course, the Word of God.
Nothing gives more support to our
faith than the Word of God.

2 Peter 1:19

*"We have a more sure word of prophecy
whereunto ye do well that you take heed"*

They remembered of His sayings

*"And they remembered his words"
(Luke 24:8)*

The Second Confirmation

The Sepulcher Of Christ

"He is not here; for he is risen... Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matthew 28:6).

"He is risen; he is not here; behold the place where they laid him" (Mark 16:6).

5. A Word of Commission

*"Go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him"
(Matthew 28:7; Mark 16:7)*

The Manner In The Commission

"Go quickly" (Matthew 28:7)

"Go your way" (Mark 16:7)

The Men In The Commission.

"Tell his disciples and Peter" (Mark 16:7)

First, The Disciples

Second, The Denier - *"And Peter"*

"And Peter" should give great hope and encouragement to all who have miserably failed.

The Message In The Commission

"Tell them... he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goes before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him"
(Matthew 28:7)

Three parts to this message

The Resurrection Part - *"Tell them... he is risen."*

The Rendezvous or Meeting Part

"Tell... that he goes before you into Galilee."

The Reward Part - *"There shall ye see him."*

If you are in love with someone and have not seen them for a while, what blessed anticipation it is to know that at some appointed place and time you will be reunited with your loved one. Believers are looking forward to seeing Jesus Christ. This is the great anticipation of the second coming of Jesus Christ.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).