



bits from bob....

## **Easter Sunday – Every Sunday Is Resurrection Sunday April 12, 2020**

A cartoon shows a man greeting the preacher after the Easter sermon, "Preacher, I think you're in a rut--all I ever hear you preach about is the resurrection!" (The cartoon is a comment on the "Holly and Lily Crowd.") It's Sunday again, but not just any Sunday. It's Easter Sunday. Time to preach about the resurrection.

Another perspective! The cartoon speaks to a problem in the contemporary church. We don't preach about resurrection enough! How many sermons never mention the resurrection? How many sermons limit references to the resurrection to a brief passing remark near the end of the sermon? The sermons in the book of Acts were about the resurrection (2:24,36; 3:36; 4:2,33; 5:31; 7:56; 10:40; 13:30; 17:31,32; 23:6; 26:23). Preaching the gospel includes preaching the resurrection (1 Cor 15:1-4). Preaching the word of God includes the resurrection (Acts 7, 8, 9, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 28).

That which distinguishes Christianity from all other religions is the resurrection of Jesus. A characteristic of deity is immortality; gods do not die. Immortal God has power over death. Jesus shows the power of God, not in avoiding death, but by reversing death! Jesus' power over death is magnificently displayed in his resurrection.

The validity of Christianity hinges on the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection of Jesus is the first fruits and promise of the resurrection of Jesus' followers. The importance of the resurrection was modeled in the early church by the celebration of the death and coming of Jesus every Sunday as they shared the Supper.

Let us never tire of preaching and hearing the message of the resurrection! Preachers, do not let today's message be the last word until next Easter, or even until next month! Preach the resurrection continually. Preach the gospel; preach the resurrection. Preach about Jesus; preach the resurrection. Without the preaching of the resurrection, Christianity is no more than a competing system of morality among many religious systems. Resurrection! Know the distinctive, emphasize the distinctive. Only Jesus gives us power over death!