



Sunday 16th March 2017

Allan Demond

Easter Sunday - Resurrected to Serve

2 Timothy 2:1-15

Jesus is Risen! Allan's message today challenges us to live with Easter as a 'frame' that shapes the way we live our lives every day. Not just at Easter! With Jesus our resurrected King our life is framed in a completely new way. His death and resurrection should change the way we live, and the value our lives have. The Easter message reminds us that 1) we once were dead, 2) we are to be seated in the heavenly realms and 3) we are created to do the good works set out for us.

Read Ephesians 2: 1-10 together.

1 - "Once You Were Dead" (v1)

Paul tells us in this passage that death is in our past - that we have been resurrected to a new life in Christ.

1. What is the 'death' Paul speaks of? How might you describe this 'death' to someone who is not a believer?
2. Consider some of the following passages, what do they tell us about the nature of the "death" we lived in?
 - Romans 6:1-11
 - Galatians 5:19-21
 - 1 John 1:8
 - Romans 7:4-8
 - Romans 3:23
 - Romans 8:5-9
 - Matthew 15:19
 - James 1:15
 - 1 John 2:15-16
3. What spiritual disciplines do you undertake to keep you focussed on your new life, rather than your previous life?



LOVE 2 SERVE

2 – You are seated in the heavenly realms with Jesus (v6)

Jesus' death and resurrection has created a new place for us that anchors our spiritual identity. It's an identity that isn't marked by how much we earn, by the type of credit card we hold, or whether or not we're permitted in the airline's executive lounge.

Read verse 6 of Ephesians 2 again.

4. What would it mean for you to live your life with this truth in the front of your mind?
5. What aspects of your life might change?
6. Think specifically about the concept of being 'united with Christ'. How does this make you feel? Glad? Nervous? Unworthy?

3 – God has created us to do the good works he has designed us to do

This passage from Paul reminds us that we have been created new again in Christ Jesus to do good things he has planned for us to do (v10). That these works do not earn our salvation (v9), but testify to the riches and goodness of God (v7).

7. What sorts of 'good works' do you feel God has called you to do? How do you
8. identify them?
9. Share some of the good works you have witnessed in other believers. How do they testify to the riches and goodness of God?
10. When is it difficult for you to do the 'good works' God is calling you to do?
11. Think back to Allan's first challenge – what change might you make to help you frame your daily life around the message of Easter?