Intro: Wed Am home reading the bible passage for this morning. Drinking my coffee while Darlene watching morning news.

I had just read vs 16-17 “From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view…new in Christ” CHANGES EVERYTHING!

Just at that moment...TV commercial came on... Let yourself play:  Gotta Play to win! ...Get a lotto ticket and win 508 million
And my mind went...ZOOM! I was gone...spending the 508 million...I thought ...THAT WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING!

That is what the Apostle Paul tells us about what Jesus did on the Cross and the First Easter

The Resurrection REALLY Changes EVERYTHING

So here is my question. HOW? How does the Resurrection change us? Worldwide Billions worshipping today!

Well, according to Paul, Easter gives us the Strength To Change!

Strength To Change  2 Cor 5:11-6:2  Pg 818

1. Easter Changes The Way We See.  Strength to Change How I See  Vs 16

When we understand and truly believe and live like Easter is real: Not just another fairy tale, Easter Bunny, Santa, Tooth Fairy

- *Gives me a New Viewpoint:*  Spiritual Viewpoint vs Worldly viewpoint (Spiritual vs Physical;  All about what I see!)
  - Now I see from God’s point of view instead of mine...or instead of what is all around me, Told to see, Culture says
  - Paul said:  I used to see Jesus that way:  *Just another rabble rouser, country hick claimed to be Messiah:*  A lot of them
  - Then one day I MET Him.  On my way to persecute some followers. Knocked down, blinding light Not see!  (Acts 9)
  - Did what He told me to do, went to a man who placed his hands on me scales fell from eyes...Saw everything different

- *Gives me a New Value:*  When we see the significance of Easter, and meet the risen Jesus,  Changes our Values
  - See Ourself differently:  Life no longer just about ME:  Now about Jesus and OTHERS!  (Important too!)
  - See People differently:  What is their spiritual condition...Vs What is their worldly position, offer me?
  - See God differently:  He is no longer far away...someone to be feared...avoided:  Right here with me!
  - See Jesus differently:  Not just some story in a book, good teacher, nice man, great leader:  Savior of World

Applic:  I have some polarized sunglasses I use for fishing.  When I put them on...see everything more clearly!  Easter does that

2. Easter Changes The Way We See Hope.  Offers Real Hope To Change Our Life!  Vs 17

When we see what happened that first Easter, and when we actually believe it...and start living it out: (Moves fm Head to Hands)

Hope moves from being an empty word, a pious platitude to becoming a living reality in our life:  God Changes Things!

Vs 17:  One of the most powerful verses in entire bible. “If anyone is in Christ, new creation:  Old has gone and new has come!”

- *Resurrection says: Change is Possible!* (I hear people say these two things all the time)
  - “That’s just the way I am” Usually a prelude to or an explanation for why they are hurting someone! Not HAVE to be
  - “That’s just the way life is” Usually a statement of hopelessness.  Nothing is going to change...Resign yourself to it
  But...that is just the opposite of what Paul tells us here:  Change is Possible!
  - We live in Rom 7:14ff  I don’t understand what I do
  - We CAN live in Rom 8:1ff  The law of the Spirit set me free from the law of sin and death!

- *Resurrection says: I can Be Different!*

Vs 17:  New Creation:  Old has gone...New man has come
Misconception about following Jesus:  God wants to make you better.  God has NO interest in making you better
Not trying to remake you, restore you, renew you or renovate you.  Not trying to take your junk, polish, clean, paint

He is absolutely interested in you laying down your life...dying to self...and following Him!  (Lay down life, Pick Cross)

He wants to make you NEW...Not make you BETTER!

New Heart, Ez;  New Mind, Romans, New Spirit  According to John:  Make a New MAN or WOMAN:  New Future

Applic:  Heard a man say something one time that explains it well.  Before/After God’s work, is similar, but just a little different

WE THINK:  Chihuahua vs a Great Dane.  Dirty man vs a Clean Man:  NO!

Not true at all!  Not a Chihuahua vs Great Dane (Microwave Oven)  DEAD MAN vs LIFE MAN

Here is the truth:  Change is possible! Don’t have to live with all the sin, struggle, pain, of past;  God can REDEEM

Hurt become Purpose:  Bitterness/Forgiveness:  Selfishness/Other oriented:  Fear Death/Anticipation

Emptiness/Fullness  Pointlessness/Purpose:  God can change YOU!

I see it every day!  I’m looking today at marriages restored, families reunited, Addictions healed...God does that!


- Old Scale:  I hear people say it all the time!  Man, when I stand before God, I hope it comes out well...

I believe that when I die I’m going to stand before God, take all the good things, all the bad, put on scale...weigh them
And if the GOOD, Outweighs the bad, then I’m going to be OK!  (No one ever REALLY believes they not good enough)

Two problems:  1. Not at ALL what bible says:  Bible says:  If you are guilty of one...guilty of all:  All you need one sin!  (Js 2:10)

2. Since that is the case, then YOU have to pay the price for your sin:  (Rom 6:23)  DEATH
I want to help you in this new relationship with God. 

PRAY: If you are ready to do that, I want to pray with you this morning.

You can turn to Him, you can walk out of here, forgiven, free, face to face with God!

CONCL: And here is the Key: **YOU** have to make the decision to make that EXCHANGE: To turn BACK to God!

That’s why Paul says when he starts this whole discussion: Some of you think I’m out of my mind!

To think that I am actually asking Persuade men, convince men, turn to God. To believe all of eternity hangs in balance

- I'm crazy to believe people can be different
- I'm crazy to believe Jesus can make more of a difference than 508 million
- I'm crazy to believe that what you do with Jesus in the next 5 mins will determine all of eternity for you
- I'm crazy to believe that what happened on a dusty hillside 2000 years ago still means anything today: But it does!
- I'm crazy to believe that what you decide about Jesus, turn back to him or not, is heaven or hell, life or death
- I'm crazy to believe that on that third day, the Spirit moved, the stone rolled away and a dead man came to life!

RESURRECTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

Power of that waits for Just One Thing: For you to reconcile: **Turn back to Him**

And so, I BEG you this morning. If you have never done that...Don’t leave this room today without doing so.

Make the Great Exchange, Sin for Holiness:

You can turn to Him, You can walk out of here, forgiven, free, face to face with God!

PRAY: If you are ready to do that, I want to pray with you this morning.

Heads bowed, eyes closed: If you would say to me Pastor, I want, I NEED to turn back to God, raise your hand

Look at me, Mean it? Let's pray,

Take that card, fill it out, bring it to me after the service. Don't you leave. Bring it, I'll contact you

I won't embarrass you, hound you, track you down, Help you. But if you don’t respond, I'll stop

I want to help you in this new relationship with God. That’s what a Church does, and who a Pastor is