

**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 *Ourselves* 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 remodel 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!

### 3. Easter Changes Way You See Judgment. Resurrection Gives Strength To Count Differently. Vs 18-19

- **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

- **New Scale:** Vs 18: Here is what the Bible says: Because of the Cross, the Scale is forever changed! God is **NO LONGER** counting our sins against us, if we know Jesus as Lord and Savior! On the Cross, God put His thumb on the scale for YOU! And for Everyone that would trust in His son Jesus Oh, the price was paid: Jesus paid it...For us all! (Is 53:2-7)
  - Vs 19: “Reconciling the world!”  
Reconciled: Lit = *to change mutually: To exchange one thing for another:* (Money changer in temple) Airport On the Cross of Jesus Christ God CHANGED *Animosity and Alienation* for forgiveness and relationship
  - Vs 19: “Not Counting men’s sins against them” *Not taking an inventory, making a list,* This is good news. Because the scale is NEVER going to even out. God requires absolute perfection, Holiness Unless you can offer THAT...the way JESUS did...then the scale is tipped against you.... (1Pet 1:15)

**Applic:** One of the greatest theologians of last 500 years: L.S.Chaefer: Explained the Cross this way (3 of 4)  
Created face to face: In Garden (and my sin) we turned our back AND God looked away Cross God turned back  
God is no longer counting our sins: No longer turned away from our sin: Covered by the blood of His Son

**4. And THAT Gives Us A New Opportunity.** *Opportunity For Change In Our Relationship With God!* Vs 20  
You see, it is possible to hear the message of Easter, and not have it mean ANY of the things we just talked about. It is possible...in fact happens all the time, that the message of Easter is heard...but results in no change at all Because you see, I left one little piece out of the illustration with the hands...did you catch it?

**Illus:** Did you catch it when I used the illustration of the hands?  
One final step: It’s what Paul says in Ch 6:1-2: It’s the Opportunity for Change in your relationship with God Because God has turned His face toward US...There is ONLY ONE THING LEFT for us to do

**WE MUST TURN BACK TO HIM**

We urge you on God’s behalf...Be turn back to God! God has already turned. Wall torn down, Price Paid

- **Implore** Lit = *to call someone NEAR: I’m begging you on behalf of God: Be reconciled*
- **Receive:** Lit = *to hear about it: to receive it: Lit to have something placed in your hands*
- **Vain:** Lit = *to be empty of fruit and result*

**Illus:** THE GREAT EXCHANGE: God made Him who knew no sin to be sin....So we could become His righteousness:  
Going to moneychanger way back from Cuba: NO ONE WANTS IT...It is absolutely no good ANYWHERE in world!  
Cuba’s don’t even want it! Exchange rate is always less selling than it is buying! They will do it...Don’t LIKE it  
Our sin is like exchanging Cuban money: We walk up to the Cross with all our sin, all our guilt, all our shame, all our failure:  
Offer that to Jesus...He takes it...and Gives us His righteousness, His holiness, His forgiveness!

**CONCL:** And here is the Key: YOU have to make the decision to make that EXCHANGE: To turn BACK to God!  
You can hear it...and believe it...and agree with it...and never turn back to God...and if that’s the case: Means nothing!

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 trying to 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? Lets 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