

AMEN!

Pastor David Woolverton, Easter Sunday 2020

We pray it all the time.

"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!"

Some of us say it on a weekly basis, perhaps.

"I believe in the resurrection and the life. Amen!"

Do we even know what 'amen' means? It's a word that literally means, "So be it!" "It's true!"

We may know the Easter story. We know that on the day that we celebrate Easter, some 2,000 years ago, a woman named Mary, happened to go to the grave of her dear friend, Jesus. And she went prepared to anoint his body for burial. Instead, what she discovered was that the stone covering that grave was rolled away, and that the body of Jesus was missing. She had no idea what had happened. Somehow, something was different. She got all upset. She was clearly missing the moment that Jesus had predicted at least three other times prior to this day. She missed the connection. And it wasn't until the man who she thought was the gardener came by and said, simply, "Mary" that she knew that Jesus was in fact alive! The grave would not hold him down. And what she discovered in encountering Jesus on that Resurrection Morning was that her life was an 'Amen!' that was waiting to be shouted. Just like Jesus' life was grand AMEN calling all of us to shout "Hallelujah! Hallelujah! He has risen!"

Today, on Easter Sunday, I want you and me to know that each of our lives are a great "Amen!" just waiting to be shouted.

There's a wonderful passage of Scripture in the book of Revelation. It says in Revelation 22:20-21:

*He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen. **Revelation 22:20-21***

Amen! It mean's 'It's true!' It means, "So be it!" Every time we say, "Amen!" we are announcing that we are in agreement with the Resurrection story - that Jesus is alive. He's alive! Do you believe it? I believe it. I believe that your life and mine are great "Amens!" waiting to be shouted.

**As a follower of Jesus,
your life is an "Amen!"**

waiting to be shouted.

The apostle Paul when he was writing to his church in Galatia wrote a very powerful verse. This is a verse that has become one of my life verses. A verse of Scripture that makes it clear "Who I am", and "Why I'm here" and it reminds me of "where I'm going." Here is what the apostle Paul says:

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

"I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me." Think about those words for a moment. Paul wrote these words to a group of Christians who had forgotten "Who they were," and "Why there were here," and "Where they were going." He knew that especially in difficult times, they needed to remember that their lives were a testimony to what God had done. That each of them was the single most important piece of evidence to the world of the truth of Jesus' resurrection. And that if they didn't get it, then the world wouldn't get it either. The cross and the empty tomb were the two events in history that needed to define who they were as followers of Jesus. The same is true of us today. Your life matters. Your life is a testimony to God's love, forgiveness, hope and grace.

God must have so loved each and every one of us that He not only gave his one and only son; he gave him to die on a cross so that in that moment of resurrection **we all would win a victory bigger than Life itself!**

Your life, my life - our lives are the great 'Amen!' that God is shouting from the cross and the empty tomb, and He's doing it for you today.

So, what difference is that going to make for you? How will that great "Amen!" of resurrection life change how you're going to live your daily agenda? That's the great question of the day. How will the Easter story change you? It all starts with whether or not you believe. Do you believe in the resurrection? We pray it. We say it. It's time for us to live it; to live everyday as Easter.

Your life is an "Amen!" waiting to be shouted.

And there is no virus, there is no war, there is no sin, there is no past...there is nothing, nothing, nothing! that can separate you from the great, great 'Amen!' God is shouting that over you. What about you? I believe. Do you?