

## **Your Resurrection Life!**

I hope you've noticed, that in the world outside, where everything still goes on as if nothing had happened, spring this year has been exceptional. And I hope you've put two and two together, and noticed that spring is the season of resurrection.

Things we thought were dead, have, in their own time, come back to life - and, while I'm talking about the maple tree in our neighbour's garden, we know that it's true for Jesus too. Oh, and also for you, for me, and for all those who have died - safely locked in the love of Christ.

Many stories in the Bible are about things beginning with 'D'. Death, decay, devastation, desolation, despair - and of course, darkness. But read on, because just as things are as bad as they can get, a light goes on, and they are all drowned out by what we might call 'resurrection life' - the sure and certain expectation of every Christian person.

**We call it hope - but what Jesus offers to all of us  
is a sure and certain expectation.  
Something good to have in difficult times.**

And our resurrection life, which can have its beginning in what we do here and now, and not just after we're dead, is something we come together to celebrate every Sunday and not just on Easter Day.

For some of us, it's good to know that the bodies we're living in now aren't expected to live for ever. Some of them start to go wrong quite early on, and we all know jolly well that they all pack up eventually.

And we're reminded of this grim fact every time we go shopping. Back in the days when we had things called Department Stores, usually the first department that greeted you was the one most popular. It's where people can buy all those things that are to do with preserving, repairing or improving our bodies - as they become increasingly less comfortable, less efficient and - some of us may fear - less attractive as the years go by.

If I remember rightly, about 40 years ago, there was an anti wrinkle cream being sold by Boots called "Cream 27", and the quite extraordinary claim it made was that, if you rubbed enough of it in, your aging skin would take on the appearance of a 27 year old. One of my daughters, who was 19 at the time, was appalled at the idea - and, as we look in the mirror, I suspect there may be one or two of us who are still hoping to get our money back.

Slowing down the ageing process is a multi million pound industry brought about by the demands of a mass market, many of whom will unfortunately die from causes other than old age.

(But I digress).

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For Jesus, the dark clouds that finally come to a head on Good Friday are, for us, always silver lined - because we know, don't we, that Easter day is always there just waiting in the wings. But for the disciples of Jesus there was no such light at that end of the tunnel. Easter hadn't happened, darkness and uncertainty were very real.

And for people like us to be able to share their experience, we have to switch off that silver lining.

**Because only if we can do that -  
will we ever be able to greet Easter as we really should!**

Easter morning should always find us bewildered and almost blinded by the brilliance it brings. Something quite unexpectedly breathtaking and wonderful has happened. For Christians, suddenly every about life and the future has changed. Their worst fears are blown away, and the Easter hymns are full of it:

**"Jesus lives! - henceforth is death  
but the gate to life immortal - alleluia!"**

The huge significance of the resurrection of Jesus should now be affecting every remaining moment of our lives, because now we can have a sure and certain expectation of a resurrection all of our own as well. I simply cannot imagine how anyone would prefer to be an Atheist when there's this sort of offer on the table.

Now, perhaps, the symptoms of ageing needn't bother us quite so much. Our resurrection bodies are on their way, and how lovely it will be, at last, to have a body where everything actually works?

**So, look outside where spring has happened.  
Look and see what it's trying so hard to tell you.  
Resurrection is all around us all of the time.**

And remember this - it's in a dark, decaying and disappearing world, that **THIS** is the astonishing good news which Jesus Christ offers to us all.

Amen.