



Sunday, April 4, 2010: Easter Sunrise

Scripture: Acts 17:22-34

Speaker: Joe Boot

Sermon Notes:

1. Easter Sunday symbolism is very important, reminding us of the centrality of the resurrection to our faith.
2. How we handle the biblical claim of Christ's resurrection will be determined by our basic beliefs about the world.
3. Many are ethically hostile to the claim of Christ's resurrection; they oppose God's moral claims on their lives.
4. If God is sovereign over all of history, then our lives are under God's direction and control; we're not autonomous.
5. If God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, then He will judge the living and the dead.
6. If you deny the ultimate authority of Christ, you only transfer the concept elsewhere: to the state or to your own mind.
7. The resurrection gives meaning to all the facts, answering the questions of origin, meaning, morality and destiny of our lives.
8. If Jesus rose from the dead, everything about our existence is changed.
9. There are only two ways of looking at the world. Either you're here by blind chance, totally determined, dancing to your DNA, or you're created by God for His purposes.
10. God promises salvation for His good creation that fell in Genesis 3:15. The Seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head.
11. All pagan religions come from Zoroastrianism, which means "seed of the woman" expressing a hope for a deliverer.
12. There are only two ways of looking at the world: the way of grace (Christ, the cross, repentance) or the way of rebellion (my own way).
13. If you've rejected the unity and purpose given to reality by Christ, you are left with an empty void.

14. If there's no God, there's no law; if there's no law, there's no moral truth and we don't need salvation.
15. Criminality is viewed by some as a necessary good, a stage in the evolution of modern society.
16. The resurrection of Christ is unique to Christianity.
 - Christ was killed by professional executioners
 - He was sealed in a secure tomb with a guard
 - His resurrection was witnessed by many
 - His apostles died willingly for their testimony
17. The meaning of Easter is that Christ takes our sins and washes them away as symbolized in the waters of baptism.

Application Questions:

1. Why are people so committed to rejecting the overwhelming proofs of Christ's resurrection?
2. Explain how evolutionary naturalism destroys the concept of free will.
3. How does the resurrection of Christ form a necessary foundation for a biblical view of all reality?
4. How was Christ's resurrection uniquely confirmed and proved a historical event?
5. What are the ethical implications of the resurrection a) for us personally, and b) cosmically?
6. Explain how the foundation of all law is destroyed by naturalism.
7. In what ways is the reconciling work of Christ's resurrection affecting my relationships with others and with God?