

It's What We Do

Week 1: Love Moves

Easter 2018

#1/5

March 31 & April 1, 2018

Pastor Jeff Bogue

I'M SO EXCITED TO CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS THIS WEEKEND!

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS HIS GREATEST DEMONSTRATION OF THE DEPTH OF HIS LOVE FOR US...

THAT AN ALL-POWERFUL GOD WOULD HUMBLE HIMSELF AND LAY HIS LIFE DOWN ON THE CROSS... TO DEFEAT SIN AND DEATH... IS THE MOST POWERFUL DISPLAY OF CHRIST'S LOVE FOR US.

CHRIST BEING BORN ---

LIVING A SINLESS LIFE, SO HE COULD BE A SINLESS SACRIFICE --- (ATONEMENT)

- HE PAID A DEBT HE DID NOT OWE FOR US & WE OWE A DEBT WE CANNOT PAY

HIS SUFFERING –

HIS DEATH –

HIS RESURRECTION!! -

THE BIBLE SAYS:

ROMANS 5:8

BUT GOD DEMONSTRATES HIS OWN LOVE FOR US IN THIS: WHILE WE WERE STILL SINNERS, CHRIST DIED FOR US.

- GOD **MOVED** TOWARD HUMANITY BECAUSE HE LOVES US AND WANTED TO RESCUE US.

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING FASCINATING:

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE HISTORICAL RECORD OF JESUS' CRUCIFIXION...

SOMETHING HAPPENED, THAT IS OFTEN OVERLOOKED, BUT IS DEEPLY PROFOUND AND FOREVER CHANGES OUR INTERACTION WITH GOD.

MATTHEW 27:45-51a PG. #697 - READ PASSAGE

MATTHEW 27:51a

AT THAT MOMENT THE CURTAIN (VEIL) OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

LET'S TALK ABOUT WHY THIS IS SUCH A BIG DEAL... BUT LET ME FRAME IT OUT FIRST.
THE REASON JESUS HAD TO COME TO EARTH, LIVE, AND OFFER HIS LIFE FOR US, IS BECAUSE OF HUMANITY'S SIN.

- **SIN IS ANY WAY WE THINK, ACT OR ARE MOTIVATED THAT IS NOT EXACTLY LIKE GOD.**
 - **TOLD A LIE? ACTED SELFISHLY? THOUGHT LUSTFUL THOUGHT?**

ROMANS 3:23

" FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALL SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD"

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

SIN CAUSES HUMANITY TO **FEAR** GOD, REBEL AGAINST GOD, AND REJECT GOD. THEREFORE, SIN **REQUIRES DISTANCE** BETWEEN THE IMPERFECTION OF HUMANITY AND THE PERFECTION (HOLINESS) OF GOD.

PERFECTION/IMPERFECTION

IN THE FIRST PART OF THE BIBLE, THIS SPIRITUAL REALITY WAS REPRESENTED BY A CURTAIN THAT WAS HUNG TO **PHYSICALLY SEPARATE** HUMANITY FROM GOD'S PRESENCE.

THIS CURTAIN BLOCKED THE FREE ACCESS INTO SOMETHING CALLED THE HOLY OF HOLIES.

IMAGE OF CURTAIN OF HOLY OF HOLIES

- ESTIMATED TO BE 60 FEET TALL AND 4 INCHES THICK... **IT SEPARATED GOD FROM THE SINS OF THE PEOPLE**
 - PLACED THERE BECAUSE OUR SIN AND GOD'S PERFECTION CANNOT CO-EXIST
 - **PLACED THERE AS A PHYSICAL BARRIER BETWEEN LOST PEOPLE AND A LOVING GOD WHO WISHES THAT NONE WOULD PERISH.**

ONE SIDE OF THE CURTAIN REPRESENTED THE REALITY THAT OUR SIN LEADS US TO SPIRITUAL DEATH AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS THE ONLY WAY TO GAIN SPIRITUAL LIFE.

FAST FORWARD TO EASTER –

GOD GIVES HIS SON JESUS & JESUS OFFERS HIMSELF AS PAYMENT FOR OUR SIN –

JOHN 10:18

NO ONE TAKES IT FROM ME, BUT I LAY IT DOWN OF MY OWN ACCORD. I HAVE AUTHORITY TO LAY IT DOWN AND AUTHORITY TO TAKE IT UP AGAIN. THIS COMMAND I RECEIVED FROM MY FATHER.

SERIES LOGO SLIDE HERE

IN GIVING HIS LIFE, HE DEFEATED SIN AND DEATH:

THE CURTAIN TORN

GOD (JESUS) LOVES US SO PASSIONATELY THAT HE MOVED TOWARD US!
HE TORE AWAY THE BARRIER BETWEEN GOD AND HUMANITY... AND PROVIDES A PATH TO SALVATION, FORGIVENESS, MERCY AND FRIENDSHIP WITH HIM!

THE APOSTLE PAUL EXPLAINS IT THIS WAY:

(TALKING TO PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECEIVED FORGIVENESS FROM CHRIST...)

BELOW: ONE SLIDE

EPHESIANS 2:1-2 (NLT)

ONCE YOU WERE DEAD BECAUSE OF YOUR DISOBEDIENCE AND YOUR MANY SINS. YOU USED TO LIVE IN SIN, JUST LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, OBEYING THE DEVIL—THE COMMANDER OF THE POWERS IN THE UNSEEN WORLD. HE IS THE SPIRIT AT WORK IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO REFUSE TO OBEY GOD.

BELOW: ONE SLIDE

EPHESIANS 2:3 (NLT)

ALL OF US USED TO LIVE THAT WAY, FOLLOWING THE PASSIONATE DESIRES AND INCLINATIONS OF OUR SINFUL NATURE. BY OUR VERY NATURE WE WERE SUBJECT TO GOD'S ANGER, JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.

BELOW: ONE SLIDE

EPHESIANS 2:4-5 (NLT)

BUT GOD IS SO RICH IN MERCY, AND HE LOVED US SO MUCH, THAT EVEN THOUGH WE WERE DEAD BECAUSE OF OUR SINS, HE GAVE US LIFE WHEN HE RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD. (IT IS ONLY BY GOD'S GRACE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED!)

BELOW: ONE SLIDE

EPHESIANS 2:6-7 (NLT)

FOR HE RAISED US FROM THE DEAD ALONG WITH CHRIST AND SEATED US WITH HIM IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS BECAUSE WE ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST JESUS. SO, GOD CAN POINT TO US

IN ALL FUTURE AGES AS EXAMPLES OF THE INCREDIBLE WEALTH OF HIS GRACE AND KINDNESS TOWARD US, AS SHOWN IN ALL HE HAS DONE FOR US WHO ARE UNITED WITH CHRIST JESUS.

BELOW: ONE SLIDE

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NLT)

GOD SAVED YOU BY HIS GRACE WHEN YOU BELIEVED. AND YOU CAN'T TAKE CREDIT FOR THIS; IT IS A **GIFT** FROM GOD. SALVATION IS **NOT** A REWARD FOR THE GOOD THINGS WE HAVE DONE, SO NONE OF US CAN BOAST ABOUT IT.

THOSE WHO ASK FOR AND RECEIVE THE GIFT OF SALVATION, WALK THROUGH THE TORN CURTAIN!!

- WHICH IS THE WHOLE POINT OF EASTER!!

HOW TRAGIC THAT GOD WOULD OFFER HIS SON JESUS, WHO WILLINGLY GAVE HIS LIFE, TEARING THE CURTAIN... BUT THE VERY PEOPLE HE CAME TO FORGIVE AND CONNECT WITH STILL NEVER WALKED THROUGH THE CURTAIN!

THIS IS OUR DOG, CHIEF –

- VIDEO OF CHIEF (SIDE SCREENS)

- PICTURE OF CHIEF (TV)

- LITTLE PIECE OF WIRE --- SO USED TO GETTING SHOCKED THAT HE **DOESN'T REALIZE HIS COLLAR IS OFF** 😊
 - HE IS SO CONDITIONED TO LIVE WITHIN HIS CONTAINMENT, HE DOESN'T REALIZE HE IS ACTUALLY FREE.
 - THE ONLY TIME HE WILL CROSS THE THRESHOLD, IS IF I GENTLY CALL HIM.

IF YOU ARE ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE CURTAIN (THE COLLAR OF SIN HAS BEEN REMOVED):

- TURN FROM YOUR INDEPENDENCE
 - REPENT OF YOUR SIN
 - AND COME HOME WHERE YOU WERE CREATED TO LIVE
- ** JESUS HAS CREATED A WAY FOR YOU TO JOIN HIM IN "LIFE"!**

I WANT TO GIVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO THINK ABOUT CROSSING BETWEEN THE TORN CURTAIN AND EMBRACING THE LIFE JESUS DIED TO GIVE YOU... THEN I WILL COME BACK AND FINISH OUR CONVERSATION.

AFTER SONG:

SOME OF US ARE ON THE "LIFE SIDE" OF THE CURTAIN ---

OUR CALLING IS TO MOVE LIKE JESUS DID ... TOWARD THOSE ON THE "DEATH SIDE".

****WE ARE CALLED TO ACT EXACTLY LIKE JESUS AND MOVE TOWARD THEM.**