

The Greatest Message

Mk 16:6

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.

What was the best news you ever heard?

What was the most significant message you ever received?

What was the most important message ever delivered?

Some might think of the first message sent over the telegraph that gave people the ability to communicate over long distances.

Others might think of the first wireless message given that were the forerunner to the modern technology that we enjoy today.

Still others might think of the message printed in the newspapers announcing the end of WW1 or the broadcast of the message that WW2 had ended.

But I submit to you that the greatest message ever delivered was the one in our text today.

- I. The message's importance is seen in the efforts that were tried to silence it.
 - A. More people have died for the cause of spreading this simple message than for any other ever throughout history.
 1. Literally millions have been put to death in order to silence this message.
 - B. The Jews were the first to persecute the follower of Jesus, those who proclaimed that He was not dead but was alive.
 - C. Next it was the Roman government that tried to silence these dedicated messengers.
 - D. Even the official church put millions to death because they could not control the witness of those proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus.
 - E. Germany put to death about 6 to 7 million Jews, but they also put to death 10 to 11 million Christians.
 - F. In Russia and communist China, tens of millions of Christians were systematically exterminated in an attempt to silence the message of the resurrected Christ.
 - G. And even today in almost every Moslem country Christianity is hardly tolerated and no one had better be caught spreading the message of Jesus or they will likely pay with their life.
 - H. While in America the gospel is criticized and marginalized by its enemies and

neglected even by those who bear the name Christian.

- II. It demonstrates that Jesus was like no other.
 - A. Today the graves of the leaders of every great religion is adorned and revered.
 - B. But only Jesus claims He would rise from the dead.
- III. But more importantly the message of the resurrection is the greatest message because of what it supplies us.
 - A. His resurrection provides us with authentication of all the claims that He made.
 - 1. He said that only He was the way the truth and the life.
 - 2. He claimed that no one could get to God except through Him.
 - B. It assures us that the sacrifice of Christ was accepted by a holy and righteous God.
 - 1. The High Priest in the holy of holies
 - 2. Nadab and Abihu
 - C. It tells us that forgiveness is available.
 - 1. Through Jesus is the only place.
 - D. It tells us that we can be justified before God.
 - E. It tells us that Jesus was victorious over the grave.
 - F. It secures our resurrection.
 - G. It secures our eternal salvation for He ever lives to make intercession.
 - H. It guarantees that He will one day return to earth just as He said.

Oh what a glorious day. Another glorious day in the great plan of God.