

Living in the light of The Resurrection

Sunday 15th April 2018



❖ **Acts 4:1-12**

The teaching and preaching of Peter and John angered the priests, the captain of the temple police, and representatives of the Jewish sect of the Sadducees. They were furious that the people were being taught that in Jesus there is a resurrection from the dead. So while Peter and John were still speaking, the Jewish authorities came to the temple courts to oppose them.

❖ They had them arrested, and since it was already evening they kept them in custody until the next day. Yet there were many in the crowd who believed the message, bringing the total number of men who believed to nearly five thousand! The next day many Jewish leaders, religious scholars, and elders of the people convened a meeting in Jerusalem.

❖ Annas the high priest was there with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others who were members of the high priest's family. They made Peter and John stand in front of the council as they questioned them, saying, "Tell us, by what power and authority have you done these things?"

❖ Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered, “Respected elders and leaders of the people, listen. Are we being put on trial today for doing an act of kindness by healing a frail, crippled man? Well then, you and everyone else in Israel should know that it is by the power of the name of Jesus that the crippled man stands here today completely healed! You crucified Jesus Christ of Nazareth, but God raised him from the dead.

❖ This Jesus is 'the stone that you, the builders, have rejected, and now he has become the cornerstone!' There is no one else who has the power to save us, for there is only one name to whom God has given authority by which we must experience salvation: *the name of Jesus.*"

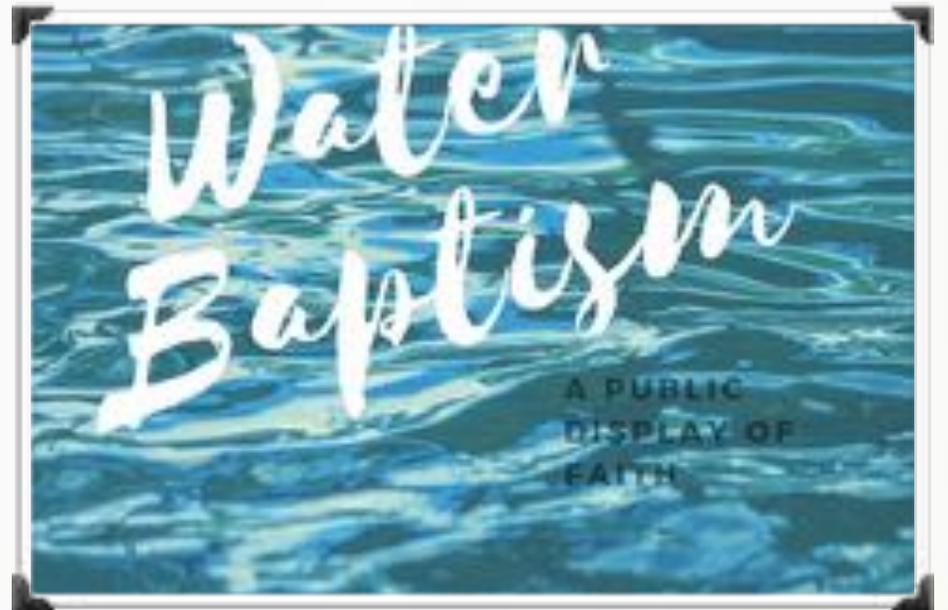




❖ **Titus 3:3-7**

For it wasn't that long ago that we behaved foolishly in our stubborn disobedience. We were easily led astray as slaves to worldly passions and pleasures... When the extraordinary compassion of God our Saviour and his overpowering love suddenly appeared *in person*, as the brightness of a dawning day, he came to save us. Not because of any virtuous deed that we have done but only because of his extravagant mercy.

❖ He saved us, resurrecting us through the washing of rebirth. We are made completely new by the Holy Spirit, whom he splashed over us richly by Jesus, the Messiah, our Life Giver. So as a gift of his love, and since we are faultless - innocent before his face - we can now become heirs of all things, all because of an overflowing hope of eternal life.



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Re-read Acts 4:1-12. They are no longer writing about seeing Jesus after he rose from the dead, but they are now witnessing to the resurrection and all that that means for humanity. Notice the clarity, confidence and utter conviction with which Peter speaks about his crucified and risen Lord.

Questions for reflection:

- In my own life, how does *what I say and do* witness to the resurrection?
- What do I want to say now to this crucified and risen Jesus?
- Do you want to ask him for courage and confidence in speaking of him?
- Do you want his help so that the way you live your life can better reflect the Good News of the Resurrection?



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- Think about these verses from Titus 3. Perhaps spend some time reflecting together on the truths that are presented here.
- What does it tell us about what Jesus has done for us?
- Move into a time of thanksgiving and prayer to God.