But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so very much, that even while we were dead because of our sins, ***He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead.*** *(It is only by God's special favor that you have been saved!)* ***For He raised us from the dead along with Christ, and we are seated with Him in the heavenly realms—all because we are one with Christ Jesus.*** *And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of His favor and kindness toward us, as shown in all He has done for us through Christ Jesus.* Eph. 2:4-7

The Evidence for the Resurrection is Overwhelming

The New Testament provides accounts from multiple sources who witnessed Jesus firsthand after the resurrection. In fact, Jesus made at least ten separate appearances to his disciples between the resurrection and his ascension into Heaven, over a period of 40 days. Some of those appearances were to individual disciples, some were to several disciples, **and once to some 500 at one time.**

There were no accounts of witnesses who came forth and disputed these appearances or called it a "hoax." Not a single one.

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that ***He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once,*** *of whom the greater part remain to the present."* 1 Corinthians 15:3–6

It turns out that the resurrection of Christ, is one of history's most carefully scrutinized and best-attested events. **The resurrection is real, and changes everything. It is the event that transformed the world forever. It gives _____ to a hopeless world.**

He Proved His Identity by the Resurrection

Every time the religious leaders asked Him for a sign to prove that He had the authority to do all that He did, Jesus alluded to His resurrection. (Matthew 12:39-40)

Core Point: Something incredibly wonderful happened when Jesus rose from the dead. For the first disciples it required their eyes to be opened, for us the same is true, as we believe in His resurrection.

Every time that Jesus either alluded to, or taught about the resurrection HE ALWAYS tied it to being proof of who He was.

"To whom ***He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs****, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."* Acts 1:3

As much as some tried to conceal this amazing turn of events the truth became verified and well documented and well testified of by hundreds and thousands of witnesses. ***"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."*** Acts 2:32

The point is that He _____! (Romans 1:1-4)

The resurrection proves that Jesus was who He said He was God in the flesh. **THE RESURRECTION** – ***is meant to remove any doubts you may have about who Jesus is.***

If you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved*. We believe with our hearts, and so we are made right with God, and we declare with our mouths that we believe, and so we are saved.* Romans 10:9-10 NCV

We are resurrection people!

His resurrection changes everything in our lives.

We have a new life _____!

We are born again - Our relationship with God is all new and fresh and free from guilt, and shame; we have a new resurrection life that gives us a new faith, hope and love to live by!

We are to be reminded that our spiritual life is not one of where we just try our best, but rather one where we experience the hand of God raising all that we are to a new life, a higher life that has a high destiny as our destination!

We can face anything when we know that we do not have to face it alone. God has promised, *"I will never leave you, nor forsake you."* Hebrews 13:5

Could the fact that you decided to come to church today be a choice that changes everything? It could. In fact, it's been happening for many people who have given God another chance.

"I am the ***resurrection*** *and the* ***life****. Anyone who believes in Me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in Me and believes in Me will never die.* ***Do you believe*** *this?* John 11:25-27 (NLT)

Core Statement: I believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ! My eyes are open to see Him and know Him as my Lord and Savior. His resurrection is the answer for everything I face as I walk with Jesus as my Lord!