HOW THE RESURRECTION CHANGED EVERYTHING Rick Warren Easter 2013

WHAT MADE THE 1ST CHRISTIANS SO CONTAGIOUS?

1.

"In Christ we are <u>set free</u> by the blood of his death. And so we have forgiveness of sins because of God's rich grace." Ephesians 1:7

"All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the guilt and sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. From prison and trial they led him away to his death. But who among the people realized that he was dying for their sins that he was suffering their punishment? He had done no wrong, and he never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have a multitude of children." Isaiah 53:6-10

"Jesus was handed over to die because of <u>our sins</u>, and he was raised from the dead <u>to make us right</u> with God." Romans 4:25

"Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? NO, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us!" Romans 8:34

2.

"When we told you about the powerful coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, we were not telling made-up stories that someone invented, rather <u>we were eyewitnesses</u> of his majesty." 2 Peter 1:16

3.

4.

Jesus said, "When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you <u>will</u> receive power and will <u>tell people everywhere about me</u>—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

"I pray that you will begin to understand how <u>incredibly great</u> <u>his power is to help those who believe him.</u> It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead." Ephesians 1:19-20

"For God <u>so loved the world</u> that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God <u>did not</u> send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17 "Jesus said, "I'm giving you a new commandment: Love each other! Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35

"This is how we know who the children of God are: Anyone who does not obey God's command and doesn't love others is not a child of God. This is the message we've heard from the beginning: We must love each other!" 1 John 3:10-11

5. _

Jesus said, "If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to <u>really</u> live." Mark 8:35

"They <u>risked their lives</u> for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ." Acts 15:26

"Our troubles and sufferings are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever! So we don't focus our attention on the trouble we see right now. Instead we look forward to the joys in heaven which we haven't yet seen. Our troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever!" 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

"For to me, living is for Christ, and dying is even better." Philippians 1:21

6.

"We have been born into a new life which has an inheritance that can't be destroyed or corrupted and can't fade away. That inheritance is <u>kept in heaven</u> for you!" 1 Peter 1:4

HOW DO I BECOME PART OF GOD'S FAMILY?

- Do what the first Christians did!
- o Accept his forgiveness
- o Believe he is God's Son
- o Receive his Spirit
- o Live for his purpose
- o Share his message of love
- o Trust him to take me to heaven

Jesus said, "I am <u>the</u> Way, <u>the</u> Truth and t<u>he</u> Life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

"For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9