

Sunday April 21 through Sunday April 28

- *****Easter Sunday***** Pastor Robert helps Trinity celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior.
- Youth Fellowship will not be meeting this evening.
- Please watch for the announcement of when the new Apprentice Study Group will begin.
- The Ugly Mug Study Group will be meeting at 11 am on Tuesday morning.
- Bible Study will be Wednesday evening at 6 pm.
- Choir practice will be lifting their voices Wednesday at 7 pm.
- Saturday evening at 6 pm Ladies' Night will begin. The meal will begin at 6:30 pm.
- Next Sunday, UMYF will not be meeting.



This WEEK at Trinity

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Sunday April 21

EASTER SUNDAY

- 10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
- 5:00 pm—UMYF canceled

Monday April 22

- 7:00 pm—Boy Scouts

Tuesday April 23

- 11:00 am—Ugly Mug Study Group

Wednesday April 24

- 6:00 pm—Bible Study
- 7:00 pm—Choir Practice

Thursday April 25

NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

Friday April 26

- 9:00 am—MEOC

Saturday April 27

- 6:00 pm—Ladies' Night

Sunday April 28

- 10:00 am—10:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am—12:00 pm Morning Worship
- 5:00 pm—UMYF canceled

Hope & Believing
I Corinthians 15: 12-26

In I Corinthians 15, Paul says that if our hope in Christ is only for this life we are to be pitied. In Paul's day, people had hope for today but could not wrap their thinking around life after physical death. Why do we who have come so far in science, technology, and space travel have so little hope for today?

Jesus chose Nazareth in Galilee as his ministry hub. The distance from Nazareth to Jerusalem equals approximately 89 miles. On resurrection morning, Jesus tells the women present at the tomb to go and tell His disciples that He rose from the dead. Moreover, they were to tell the disciples he would meet them in Galilee. I will let you wrestle with the time it takes to walk 89 miles. You will likely want to reconcile Jesus telling the Disciples to remain in Jerusalem, in the Upper Room, until they receive the promised Holy Spirit.

I contend that our concern about time, distance, and immediate gratification blinds our eyes and closes our ears to the Good News. When we slow down, we find the Good News in what some might call details. What we count as details the disciples accepted as common knowledge.

The region of Galilee was lush and beautiful. If we look deeper we discover the beauty of the Good News in Galilee's name. It means "circuit." The word means the start and finish occupies the same place. Jesus taught the disciples that he is the start and finish, or as Revelation says, "the alpha and omega;" we would call him A to Z.

Jesus told the disciples three times that he is "circuit!" "The son of man must suffer, be killed, and rise again on the third day. We discovered the way of Jesus in common suffering. Faith in Christ convinces us that neither sin nor death stings. The truth of the Gospel proclaims hope for Now and eternity. The life Jesus gives proves God's Love and reveals what it means to be ONE with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The very nature of being One with God gives us eyes to see faith, hope, and love in the temptation to sin. THE GOOD NEWS says "nothing can separate us from God."

Jesus said that we would see Him coming as far as the east is from west? Notice that Jesus wants us to consider the nature of "circuit." The distance between east and west is the very place you stand. If you don't believe me start walking. You may go east or west, it matters not. Keep walking and you will arrive in the place you began. If you still have doubts, walk the circuit again. Once we see this, we understand just how close the Kingdom of heaven has come near to us. Jesus is with us where we stand. The real question is do we have faith, hope and love for God Now and eternity.

So it is with creation. There remains evening and morning each day. We took evening and morning and turned it into hours, minutes, seconds, nanoseconds.... Friends the Good News has no need of measuring time and distance! We measure time to control one another and weigh one another down with burdens too heavy to carry.

To understand why time and distance blinds us to the Good News simply consider the nature of Greek verbs. Our English language blinds us from the truth of Jesus' words. Jesus said that he must suffer, be killed, and rise again. These three movements comprise the Good News. They form the circuit named Jesus Christ. In Greek, these verbs are aorist tense. Aorist verbs means the action "forms a collective whole that is "without boundaries" and "without regard to time."

Therefore,

- His suffering is a single collective whole, without regard to time, or boundaries.
- His death is a single collective whole, without regard to time, or boundaries.
- His resurrection to life is a single collective whole, without regard to time, or boundaries.

Jesus, then, is Galilee. He is "circuit." He is the beginning and the end in the same way the east is from the west. He is a simple single point that Paul calls NOW!

Now is the time of salvation. Now is the time to be healed or made whole. Now is this present moment's experience of eternity.

In I Corinthians 15, Paul says that if our hope in Christ is only for this life we are to be pitied. In Paul's day people had hope for today but could not wrap their thinking around life after physical death. Today, many people experience the opposite. Our obsession with immediate gratification, time, and distance creates extreme stress and "suffering." They are hopeless. They long to escape their suffering. They say, "I can't wait to get to heaven." I hear Paul saying that if our hope is only for life in heaven we are of all people the most to be pitied.

The English language adds to the suffering. All of Jesus' aorist verbs are rendered future tense. Future tense blinds us to "circuit." It blinds us to see Now as the single collective whole without regard to time, distance, or boundaries." Thankfully, we have a word that accomplishes the meaning of the aorist tense. Now is the time of salvation. Now is the time to Be still on earth and experience God's will as it is in heaven.

One in Christ,

One is another word for circuit, now, salvation, and Good News.

Robert