

# Easter - What a Difference

**I Cor. 15: 1-11**

**Introduction:** On Feb. 27, 1991, at the height of Desert Storm, Ruth Dillow received a very sad message from the Pentagon. Her son, Clayton Carpenter, Private 1st Class, had stepped on a mine in the Persian Gulf and was dead.

Ruth Dillow wrote, "I can't begin to describe my grief and shock. It was almost more than I could bear. For 3 days I wept. For 3 days I express anger and loss. For 3 days people tried to comfort me, to no avail because the loss was too great."

But 3 days after she received the message, the telephone rang. The voice on the other end said, "Mom, it's me. I'm alive." Mrs. Dillow said, "I couldn't believe it at first. But then I recognized his voice, and thought he really was alive." She said, "I laughed, I cried, I felt like turning cartwheels, because my son, whom I thought was dead, was really alive. I'm sure none of you can even begin to understand how I felt.

Perhaps not, but for those who were with Jesus for the last few days would understand because they had experienced the same emotions.

- A) Jesus nailed to a cross
- B) His cries of pain (My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? It is finished)
- C) His body taken and hastily buried
- D) All their hopes and dreams buried with Him

Until the first day of the week, early in the morning, when Mary Magdalene came to complete the burial process. **John 20:1-20**

## **I. The Transformations of the Cross and the Tomb**

### **The Cross before the Resurrection:**

An instrument of death (wood soaked with blood, reserved only for the slave or traitor to Rome)

### **After the Resurrection:**

- A symbol of Beauty
- A symbol of Hope
- A symbol of Forgiveness
- A symbol of Love
- A symbol of Grace

### **The Tomb before the Resurrection:**

- The final Chapter
- Closing of a great door
- The end of everything

### **After the Resurrection:**

Where life really begins  
Where life never ends  
Where we never grow old  
Where we never again part  
Where we worship the Savior forever

## II. The Transformation of Time

### **Before the Resurrection**

Time is limited (Brief)

**Jas 4:14** Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a **vapour**, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

**Ps 103:15** *As for* man, his days *are as grass*: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

**1 Pe 1:24** For all flesh *is as grass*, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

### **After the Resurrection**

The purpose (What we strive for) of life is changed

The meaning (Why we live) of life is changed

The scope (Our actions) of our life is changed

## III. The Transformation of Life

### **Before the Resurrection**

A Life of emptiness

A Life of searching

A Life of sorrow

A life of hopelessness (Dr. Kevorkian - know as Dr. Death)

### **After the Resurrection**

An abundant life (**John 10:10**)

A life of hope

**I Cor. 15:19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. (**v.20**) But now is Christ risen from the dead, *and* become the firstfruits of them that slept.

We have a reason to live because of the power of His resurrection.

## IV. The Transformation of Death

### **Before the Resurrection**

Death is the end

Death is final

April 15, 2001 (Morn.)

Death left us hopeless

### **After the Resurrection**

Death is a parting, but it is not the end, it is a beginning

Death is a defeated foe (**I Cor. 15:55** Oh death where is thy sting? Oh grave where is thy victory?)

The promise of everlasting life (**John 3:16**)

Our sins are forgiven

The whole concept of death is changed

What about you? What about your life? Are you looking for happiness? Do you need a reason to live?

Come to Jesus he can give you abundant and everlasting life.

By: Pastor Steve Harper