

The Renewal of Life

John 3:1-7

Theme: Renewal (Easter)

Aim: To show that each of us can "renew" ourselves as the world does each spring, and that renewal promises a resurrection.

1. Several years ago, Mary and I visited Stonehenge in Southwestern England. It reminded me of a darker era when men worshipped nature.
 2. Those folks were impressed, as are we, by beauty of spring and idea of renewal. They wondered as nature renews resurrects itself, can man be renewed, resurrected?
 3. Jesus Christ came to make these ideas a reality.
- I. Life takes its toll on each of us.
- A. Problems are many.
 1. Making a living, raising a family, dealing with blows of life.
 2. Matthew 7:24-25. Notice that Jesus said when, not if, the winds and rains come.
 3. Trials and tribulations come to every life and ultimately, death invades our life and takes our parents, friends, siblings, and finally ourselves.

 - B. Physical life is ebbing away.
 1. How quickly time passes. Youth may not understand, but the physical body is decaying.
 2. Somewhere in time the reality of my own death comes into focus, and again death will invade.
- II. But there is real hope of renewal for the Christian!
- A. Renewal of self and of life a prominent theme in God's Word.
 1. John 3:1-7.
 2. Romans 6:3-6.
 3. 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1.
 4. Ephesians 4:20-24.
 5. Colossians 3:1-10.

 - B. But how is this renewal possible?
 1. It is based on reality of Jesus' resurrection, not on superstitions.
 2. It is through the gospel, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.
 3. It does not come through exercise, diet, nature or external efforts.
 4. Look again at Romans 6: 1-4.
 5. It comes from obeying gospel, daily engaging in renewal, worship, study, prayer.
- III. Again, look at Romans 6: 1-4, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4. Based on His resurrection which vouch safes our own resurrection.
- A. The ultimate renewal *will* come because *He* was raised.
 1. 1 Corinthians 15:16-23.
 2. That is power behind 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:4.

 - B. Do you need that renewal today?
 1. We all need it periodically. It is expressed in an inward determination to dedicate my life to God again.
 2. But sometimes it needs a more public expression.

1. The resurrection of nature in spring is a beautiful thing.
2. The resurrection of a life in Christ is more beautiful.

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