By Troy Dobbs, Senior Pastor

The resurrection of Jesus is the most significant event in all of history. By rising from the dead, Jesus proved He was exactly who He claimed to be. As well, the Bible says His resurrection guarantees ours. In fact, the resurrection is so significant that all the doctrines and principles of Christianity rise and fall on the rising of Jesus from the dead.

1“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me,” (Matthew 28:1-10).

Consider what is being said in this passage. The Roman guards, who were ordered to secure the tomb, trembled with fear at the sight of the angel and became like dead men; but the angel told the women, “Do
not be afraid…” The angel told them what had happened, what they could expect, and what they were to do. This passage gives followers of Christ three appropriate responses to His resurrection.

FIRST: come to the tomb yourself.
The women most certainly came to the tomb to pay their respects, but they wound up experiencing the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Verses 5 and 6 say, “The angel said to the women, ‘… I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.’ ” By the time the angel arrived, Jesus had already risen. The women were not eyewitness to Christ’s resurrection. They were eyewitnesses to an empty tomb.
The angel didn’t roll the stone away to let Jesus out – the angel rolled the stone away to let people in.
When I say “we must come to the tomb for ourselves,” I am saying we must do the intellectual work needed to know for ourselves that Jesus really is God.

My encouragement to every pre-Christian is:

• Don’t take someone else’s word about who Jesus is, and don’t allow people to do your thinking.
• Don’t just stand back and speculate.
• Check out the resurrection of Jesus Christ for yourself!

Quite frankly, I am not sure why anyone would want to explain away the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of eternal life. Only a fool would try to explain away the resurrection, which is to damn the entire human race. Come to the tomb, and see for yourself.

SECOND: get the message out to other people that “Jesus is alive.”
The resurrection is not something to sit on; it is something to be shared. The angel instructed the women to “go quickly and tell his disciples…” They were to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead, and the disciples were to go all over the world and tell people from every nation that “Jesus is alive.”
The original followers of Jesus Christ communicated the truth to others with striking urgency. They ran to tell others; they hurried to get the message out. The early church lived and preached “Jesus is alive” with urgency, in stark contrast to many 21st century churches that are busy trying to make the pews more comfortable. How can we reclaim the original sense of urgency Christ followers had as they told the world Jesus had risen from the dead?

Martin Luther said he lived as though Jesus died only yesterday. He kept the death and resurrection of Jesus fresh on his mind and heart. He allowed an event that happened 2000 year earlier to touch his present-day reality. Luther wanted to be amazed by the power of the Gospel over and over again. In the same way, we need to let the death and resurrection of Jesus touch us – not just once a year – but every day.

THIRD: fall at the feet of Christ in worship.
The text says the women came to Him, clasped His feet and worshipped Him. They knew who He was. They watched Him die on Friday and saw Him alive on Sunday. So they adored Him, praised Him, honored Him, and worshipped Him. They fell down at His feet. They were doing what Paul says everyone should do: bow and confess Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God. Every Christ follower who understands this message today understands how appropriate it is to fall at the feet of Jesus in worship.