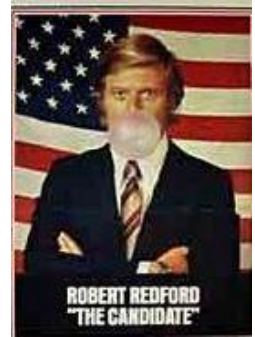


What Do I Do Now?

One of the memorable movies I have watched is called *The Candidate*. It stars Robert Redford as Bill McKay. In the movie McKay decides to run for the U.S. Senate in the state of California. In the movie he has no chance to beat the popular incumbent so he makes all kinds of campaign promises, without regard to how he would accomplish them. He surprisingly wins the election, and then immediately turns to his campaign manager and says, “What do I do now?” It is time to deliver on the promises he made in order to get elected.



Jesus made some promises, too. Everything He promised came to be. Last Sunday was Easter, a celebration of His greatest promise -- He would rise from the dead after three days, and He did. The fulfillment of that promise assures us that Jesus will honor every other promise He has made to us. So victory is assured. What do I do now?

As you left church on Easter Sunday did you feel a renewed commitment to carry out your side of the bargain – to be a person of faith and to worship the Christ whose power overcame death; to make an effort to live a righteous life; and to ask for forgiveness?

What difference did the resurrection make to you? The fact that you are forgiven if you confess your sins is huge -- life changing. So, did it change your life? Are you a different person because Jesus has paid the punishment for your sins? Easter Sunday is the powerful reminder of the fulfillment of that promise.

Because Jesus fulfilled this promise we can trust Him to deliver on other promises. There were many, and collectively they give us hope for the future. That is important to us as we consider how fortunate we are. People not of the faith don't have the promises we have. In a world filled with chaos we can live in peace (John 16:33), because we know we are forgiven (Matthew 9:2). We know Jesus is with us during the tough times of our life (Matthew 28:20), and we know where we are going (John 3:16). And when we get there, Jesus will acknowledge us to the Father (Matthew 10:32).

The movie character Bill McKay asked out of fear, “What do I do now?” We don't have to ask the question. We can have confidence and a sense of peace as we go about our day. Instead of wondering what to do now, we can strengthen our commitment to God who promises us guidance in this life and the wonderful future of eternal life to come.

Question: How are you a different person because Jesus has risen from the dead, victorious over sin and death?

Prayer: Dear Lord. Because you have been raised from the dead we have the assurance that we too can have eternal life. We know your promises will be fulfilled. Let us rejoice and praise your name wherever we go. Amen.

Sample Promises from Jesus – for Further Study

- Great is your reward in heaven. Matthew 5:12 & Luke 6:23
- You will be forgiven Luke 6:37 & Luke 7:47-50
- Forgive others so the Lord will forgive you Mark 11:25
- You will never grow hungry or thirsty John 6:35
- I will raise you up on the last day John 6: 40, 44
- Everything is possible for those who believe Mark 9:23
- Where two or three have gathered together in My Name,
I am there in their midst Matthew 18:20
- You will receive ... you will find ... and the door will
be opened to you Luke 11:9, 10
- I will give you rest; you will find rest Matthew 11:28-29
- The Son of Man will come when you are not expecting Matthew 24:44
- (You) will receive in this age 100 times as much Mark 10:29-30, Luke 18:29-30
- The Holy Spirit will teach you what to say. It will not
be you who speak, but the Spirit of the Father who will
speak through you. Mark 13:11, Luke 12:12
- This cup, which is poured out for you, is my blood of
the new covenant, which is poured out on behalf
of many for the forgiveness of (your) sins. Mt. 26:28, Mk 14:23-24,
Luke 22:20
- With me you may have peace John 16:33
- I am constantly with you until the age be complete Matthew 28:20
- Don't be troubled by the world; I give you peace John 14:27
- I will prepare a place for you in Heaven John 14:2
- You need not worry about having the necessities of life Matthew 6:31-32