

# Knowing Christ as Your Living Saviour

Luke 24:1-53

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## **Introduction:**

All around the world today, people are celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- That is especially the case today because, unlike most years, the churches in East who follow their traditional calendar and those churches in the West who follow theirs,
  - happen to conclude that Easter is on April 16<sup>th</sup> this year.
  - This division itself shows that the traditional church calendar is not of apostolic origin.
  - Their ways of calculating Easter usually come up on different days, but this year is an exception.

And for us, as a reformed church that endeavours to only keep those traditions that were instituted by the Apostles and so recorded for us in Scripture,

- we actually celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ every week, on the first day of week, which is the Lord's Day—the day that Jesus rose from the dead.
  - So we too are remembering the resurrection of Jesus Christ today.

Sadly, many churches that make much of the non-apostolic holy days such as a Christmas and Easter make very little of the weekly Lord's Day worship and daily family worship.

- But what is worse, many of those who will follow their Easter rituals today do not even know the Lord Jesus as a living Saviour.
- They know that He rose from the dead—
  - but they do not know Him as a living Saviour with whom they have living personal communion.
- I know that this is so because I was such a person for about twenty years.
  - I believed that Jesus actually rose from the dead, and every year on Easter Sunday, we sang "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," at church and had an Easter egg hunt in the afternoon,
    - but I did not have a personal relationship with Christ as my living Saviour and Lord.

Now that I am in the ministry,

- I have found that those who observe Easter but who do not know Christ as a living Saviour are many, and seem to fall under three general categories...
  - 1) First, there are those like I was, who know the facts, but who have never engaged with Him as a living Saviour...
    - Such persons are found in all kinds of churches—they just sort of go along with Easter as part of their religion—and they hope that everything will turn out all right for them in the end as those who worship God.
    - Some of them even have some sense of Jesus as the one who saves them from their sins (as I did), but they have never really been convicted or their sin or turned from it to follow Him as their Lord and Saviour—
      - Theirs is just a vague and cloudy hope that has no transforming effect on their lives.

- 2) And secondly, there are those (like the minister in the church I went to) at that time who see the story of Easter as a helpful myth that grew up in the church and that benefits us as we engage with it.
  - It is a fictional story that inspires us to renew our lives and our service in the world...
  - They often use the inspiration from this story to promote some social agenda, such as world peace or saving the environment or social justice for transgender people.
    - But for them the idea that we would need Jesus to die to atone for our sins is not on the radar—it is offensive and unacceptable.
  
- 3) And then thirdly, there is the category of those who do claim to know Jesus personally as a living Saviour, and who do believe that He rose from the dead, but who know Him in mystical ways rather than as He is revealed in the Scriptures...
  - In other words, He is a Jesus that is (at least partially) made up in their own heart and imagination rather than the historical Jesus of the Bible—
  - His attributes and commandments are those that seem right to them.
    - For example, they may see Him as One who would never send anyone to hell—or others of them may see Him as One who promises to make us rich and prosperous in this world—or maybe as someone who heals their hurts and builds up their self-worth—it could be anything...
    - But instead of accepting Him as a living person, they make Him up as they go along—giving Him the qualities they want Him to have instead of engaging with Him as a person who has His own qualities.

It is very sad to see so many people who ritually celebrate the resurrection of Jesus but who do not know Him as alive.

- As of 2001, over 85% of those who live in Nova Scotia were baptised Christian, and in 2011, according to the Canadian Encyclopedia, 75% of Nova Scotians identified themselves with a Christian denomination.
  - Can you imagine what it would be like if all of these truly walked with Jesus as their living Lord and Saviour?

With so many Christians around the world remembering that Jesus rose from the dead this Lord's Day,

- I thought this would be a good time for us to look at what it means to have Him as a living Saviour—to know Him as a living Saviour.

With that in mind, please listen now as I read to you from the last chapter of Luke's gospel—Luke 24.

- I will read the entire chapter:
- This is Luke 24:1-53.

**Luke 24:1-53:** Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. <sup>3</sup> Then they went in and **did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.** <sup>4</sup> And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. <sup>5</sup> Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek

the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup> He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’” <sup>8</sup> And they remembered His words. <sup>9</sup> Then they returned from the tomb and told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary *the mother* of James, and the other *women* with them, who told these things to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> And their words seemed to them like idle tales, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter arose and ran to the tomb; and stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying by themselves; and he departed, marveling to himself at what had happened. <sup>13</sup> Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And they talked together of all these things which had happened. <sup>15</sup> So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. <sup>17</sup> And He said to them, “What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?” <sup>18</sup> Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> And He said to them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. <sup>21</sup> But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. <sup>23</sup> When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. <sup>24</sup> And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup> Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Ought not the Christ to have suffered these

things and to enter into His glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. <sup>28</sup> Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. <sup>29</sup> But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. <sup>36</sup> Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, “Peace to you.” <sup>37</sup> But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. <sup>38</sup> And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.” <sup>40</sup> When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. <sup>41</sup> But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, “Have you any food here?” <sup>42</sup> So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. <sup>43</sup> And He took *it* and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup> Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” <sup>45</sup> And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup> Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>

And you are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup> Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” <sup>50</sup> And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, <sup>53</sup> and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

May the LORD bless the reading of His holy Word.

What a wonderful thing it is to see that Jesus, though crucified and dead, did not remain dead but was raised to life again!

- We see in this passage how His disciples were engaged with Him as a living Saviour, just as we will be if we truly know Him.
  - This is what so many are missing.
  - Even though they follow their Easter rituals, they do not enjoy vital (or living) communion with Him.

TRANS> So to start off...

## I. I encourage you to engage with Him as a living risen Lord.

A. The question that the angels asked the women at the tomb in verse 5 is fitting for many of us today as well...

- **“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!” (vv. 5b-6)**
  1. Jesus had died three days before, and these women were doing a noble thing.
    - They were coming to honour His dead body by wrapping it with spices.
    - They were paying their respects to Jesus who had been crucified.
    - Jesus had told them that He would rise on the third day,
      - but as they were unable to believe that He would be crucified in the first place,
        - they had not really taken in what He had said.
      - But they had been told by Him many times before He died and that is why the angels speak to them as if they should have known about this...
        - **(vv. 6b-7) “Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’ ”**
  2. It is even more the case that those who gather to remember His resurrection today should know that He is alive.
    - They sing songs about it and they even speak about it and they have scripture readings about it, but so often they live as though He were dead.
    - They do not take to heart the words that He is alive—not just that He rose from the dead—but that He rose from the dead and is still alive!
      - As I showed you, for some, it is a religious story that may be true but that does not really change their daily lives...
      - For others, it is seen as a fictional story that inspires them...
      - And for still others, they seek communion with Him, not as a living person, but as one that they design to suit themselves.

- B. I am telling you that you must rather seek Him as the living Saviour that He is!
- Look for Him to have dealings with you in your soul as a living person.
1. Do you have actual engagement with Him? Has He revealed Himself to you as alive so that it is not just words, but real interaction with Him?
    - There is a great forcefulness about a living person's presence...
    - If you are in the room with a sleeping person, it is not at all the same as if you are in a room with a living person...
      - It is quite different to be with a person who is watching you, who speaks to you, who may be pleased or displeased with what you are doing.
        - It is one thing to be standing on the couch with muddy shoes when your mother is not present; quite another when she is in the room.
        - And in the same way, when you are seven years old, it is one thing to walk past the neighbourhood bully's house when you are alone; quite another when your dad is with you!
  2. Let me ask you, does Jesus convict you of your sin—as a living Lord?
    - Do you see that He is the Holy One of Israel and that you are a guilty sinner who needs His mercy?
    - Does He chasten you so that you cannot continue in your sin but must repent of it?
      - If you are able to tell lies and not confess them and He does not confront you in such a way that you cannot go on with repenting...
      - Or if you are able to harbour bitterness and resentment against others in a bitter, cold heart—where is the living Saviour in your life?
        - I tell you, if you know Him as the Living One, you will be forced to deal with that bitterness.
      - The same is true with sexual immorality, with stealing and cheating—maybe at school or on your taxes,
        - even just with the lack of devotion that you have to God and His service—
          - If you know Him as a living Saviour, you know Him as the One who addresses you about these things.
          - You see your sin and you can't ignore it because you are living before Jesus Christ and you know that He sees it all and you know that He is very displeased with it.
          - He actively chastens you and He shows you His will...
            - You deal with Him as a living Lord, not a dead one.
    - 3. And let me ask you also—are you comforted by His presence?
      - Are you able to calm yourself in danger because you know that He is with you? — like the seven-year-old with his dad...
        - Are you able to cast your worries on Him, knowing that He cares for you?
        - What can anyone do to you if He is with you?
        - What can go truly wrong if you know that He is watching out for you?
      - And do you take comfort in His promises as the promises of a living person?
        - Do you look to Him for forgiveness and mercy?

- Do you look to Him for strength to stand against temptation?
  - Do you look to Him for wisdom when you have hard things to do?
  - Do you find comfort in His promises of salvation?
  - Are you mindful of ways that He is working in you and changing your life?
    - Are you learning of Him and of His glory?
    - Is He revealing it to you?
- C. Did you notice how He engaged with His disciples in Luke 24?
- Even though He was physically present with them, He used the scriptures.
1. He spoke to them through the revealed words of the Bible—which is His Word.
    - It was not for them to either ignore what scripture said, or to make up things that they would like to be true...
      - You can't just decide what you would like Jesus to say and then put those words in His mouth.
      - His words do not come from your own heart, for your heart is sinful, but especially now that He is in heaven, He speaks to us through the scriptures.
    - But as the one who is alive, He makes those scriptures to come alive as His own personal word so that we receive it as from Him as a living person.
      - Not as something that we can bend, but as something that has His personal authority.
  2. Look at the examples we have here in Luke 24...
    - a. We saw already how the angels challenged the women at the tomb by reminding them of what Jesus had said to them about how He would be crucified and would rise again on the third day.
      - It was not right for them to ignore what Jesus had said to them, which is what they had done!
        - Neither is it right for us to ignore what He has said.
    - b. And then there were the two disciples on the road to Emmaus that He walked with in Luke 24:13-35.
      - Before they recognised Him (for their eyes were blinded), He nevertheless spoke to them by expounding the scriptures to them.
        - In verse 27, it says: **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**
      - After they realise that it was Him, they reflect back on the effect that His word had on them...how it came with powerful authority...
        - In verse 32, it says: **And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"**
      - You can see from this how there was a personal engagement with Him in their souls that came through the risen Lord opening the scriptures to them—bringing the Word home to them with power as the word of the Lord.
    - c. Interestingly, when we are told about Jesus' engagement with the eleven later on in Luke 24, it is the same thing...

- Here, Luke is summarising for us in a few words what Jesus did over the forty days from His resurrection until He was taken into heaven,
  - And in verses 44-45, it says: **Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.”** <sup>45</sup> **And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.**
- So you see the two things He does as a living Saviour—He uses the scriptures and He opens their hearts to receive them.
  - And we know that this is how He continued to work after He ascended into heaven because He sent them out to preach the scriptures and promised to be with them...
    - And He had told them before that those who were His sheep would hear His voice as a living Saviour and follow Him.
    - We have the example of Lydia in Acts 16:14 to whom Paul preached. It says: **The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.**
- 3. That was exactly what happened to me when I came to know Christ as a living Saviour and Lord.
  - I knew about Him—I knew the facts of scripture—
    - I had read the Bible as a religious book to help me live...
  - But everything changed when the risen Lord began to address me.
    - Those same scriptures that had been dead became alive.
      - The commandments came with the authority of risen Lord behind them.
      - The promises came with certainty from Him who lives and reigns.
      - The revelations in the Bible about God and His Son became real.
    - That is what happens when the risen Lord calls you!
      - He speaks to you through His word and you receive it as His word.
      - No longer is it a mere collection of religious writings.
        - It is the Word of God that effectively works in your life.

TRANS> So I hope you can see that you ought to engage with Jesus as a living Saviour and Lord—and now I want to look more specifically at a second thing...

## **II. Secondly, that you ought to engage with Him as a living redeemer!**

- A. Too often, we are like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus—we suppose that His redemption has failed!
1. Consider these two—Cleopas and the other one—they were not of the twelve, but were other disciples of His.
    - a. It is marvellous account—these chaps are walking on the road, very downcast and dejected,
      - and Jesus comes up, not making himself known, and starts talking with them and says (v. 17): **“What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”**
      - And they sort of chide Him as one who is not in touch with things and say:
        - (v. 18) **“Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?”**

- And He says, “**What things?**” and then they go into this description of things that is really rather humorous after the fact...(v. 19-21): “**The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,** <sup>20</sup> **and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.** <sup>21</sup> **But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.”**
- b. Isn't that great? “We were *hoping* that it was He who was going to redeem Israel”?
  - The things that He had done that had made them lose hope that He would redeem Israel were the very things that He had done to redeem Israel!
    - They did not understand that He must die on the cross for their sins.
    - They did not understand that there could be no redeemed people until the Son of God from heaven came and died for them, bearing the wrath and curse of God for their sins.
    - They thought Jesus had failed when in fact He had done the very thing that was necessary to save them from their sins!
      - Even though He had been declared to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, they had not understood this.
      - Like the other disciples, it seemed impossible that the Messiah who was to redeem them should die.
- c. And this is when Jesus, still walking with them, showed them from the scriptures that it was so.
  - No doubt He explained that the temple and the sacrifices that were offered daily to atone for sin were all showing what the Messiah was to do...
    - I imagine He took them to Isaiah 53 as well where it shows how all we like sheep have gone astray, but how the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...
      - And how it is by His stripes that we are healed...
    - And perhaps He want to Psalm 16 and Psalm 22 where it speaks about His death and resurrection—how God the Father accepted His sacrifice for their sins.
  - He had not failed, but He had succeeded in redeeming them in the way that God had appointed.

B. Are we not very often like Cleopas and the other disciple?

1. We act as if there is nothing in what Jesus did on the cross—or at least not enough in it.
  - a. Many of you went on for years hoping that God would accept you because you went to church or because you tried to be a good person.
    - And you had very little regard for Jesus' dying on the cross.
    - You knew that He had done that, and you even knew the words that He had done it to save us from our sins—and you called Him the Saviour.
      - But you had no engagement with this reality.
      - You did not trust in Him as a living Saviour to redeem you.
      - It was a story that did not have power in your life.



- b. And others of you had even less knowledge of what Jesus did.
    - You were ignorant of why Jesus died on the cross...even of the facts.
      - You did not want to think about it—you were unconcerned about the need of redemption.
      - You tried to avoid the fact that you were a sinner who would have to answer to God...you pushed it all away.
    - And then one day, God in His mercy, brought the Word into your life with power.
  - c. But even now, some of us know Him as Saviour, but find it hard to believe that He will fully forgive you—that the cross is enough!
    - Even though Jesus died on the cross, you still feel guilty and unforgiven—not because you have not repented of your sins—but you just find it hard to believe that He would forgive you.
    - You are not giving proper weight to what Jesus did on the cross!
      - You miss the significance of a passage like 1 John 1:7 where it says: **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- You need the risen living Redeemer to address you.
2. You need to realise that as a living Redeemer, Jesus not only died, but ever lives to make intercession for us.
- a. Hebrews 7:25 declares plainly: **Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**
    - It was indeed necessary for Him to die, but it is also necessary for Him to live that He might make continual intercession for us.
      - Making intercession means that as a living Saviour, He applies His sacrifice to us to cleanse us from our sin.
      - He did not just offer the sacrifice and walk away, but He constantly appeals to the Father on the basis of it for our forgiveness!
  - b. That means that you should not go around as if He has failed in redeeming His people!
    - If you have come to God through Him, if you have repented of your sin and come to God through Jesus who was sacrificed,
      - You can be certain that His redeeming work will not fail!
      - He is alive and He is applying it to you right now.
    - Instead dragging along in your guilt, confess your sins and rest in what He has done.
      - Instead of going along in your guilt, you can give thanks for what your living Saviour has done and for what He is doing!
      - God raised Him up to show that His sacrifice was fully accepted.
        - Rejoice and trust in Him with all your heart.
        - You are redeemed if you have come to God through Him—
          - He has not failed—He is alive to apply His work to all who come to Him.

TRANS> So we have seen how in general we ought to engage with Jesus as a living Saviour and Lord, and how specifically, we ought to engage with Him as a living redeemer...not a dead one...

**III. And now thirdly, I want to encourage you to engage with Him as the one who lives to subdue the nations to Himself—to bring all His elect into His kingdom.**

- A. Jesus presents Himself to the eleven disciples in this way at the end of Luke 24—from verses 36-53.
1. In verses 36-43, He makes His initial appearance to them, showing them that He truly is alive from the dead.
    - He shows them the scars in His hands and feet, and in His side, and He rebukes them for doubting that He had risen just as He said He would.
  2. And then in verses 44-46, He shows them from scriptures how **it was necessary (v. 46) for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,**
    - We saw already how **He opened their understanding (v. 45) that they might comprehend the scriptures.**
  3. But I want you to notice now what He said in verses 47-49...
    - He not only told them that **it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,** but also that (v. 47) **repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**
    - And He added to them in verse 48 that **you are witnesses of these things.**
    - And gave them the promise in verse 49, saying, **“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”**

TRANS> This has everything to do with Him being a risen Saviour.

- It was this reality that He was a risen Saviour that changed the disciples from cowards to bold witnesses.
    - Not only that they understood now, but also that He was at work in them by His Spirit to make them bold.
- B. We can go forth to win the nations with confidence because Jesus lives!
1. He is not one who is fallen asleep, but a living active gatherer of His people.
    - a. As a living Saviour He is sending us out to preach repentance and remission of sins to all nations!
      - He sent His apostles out first to Jerusalem, and then to all nations with this message that all people everywhere ought to repent and that there is forgiveness of sins through the name of Jesus Christ.
    - b. Jesus is pictured here as the living head of His church who is commissioning us to gather people from the whole world into His kingdom.
      - That is the task that we have been given until He returns at the end of the age.
      - This is the time for us to be fruitful and multiply, not only by bringing forth godly sons and daughters for His kingdom,
        - but also by calling those who are outside His kingdom to repent and come to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins.
  2. And Jesus does not just leave us with these instructions.

- a. If you know Him as a living Saviour, you know that He is active in stirring us up to this work of evangelising the world—
    - He calls us, He gives us a burden for our neighbours, He equips us, He empowers us, He provides for us, He makes us His witnesses!
    - He gives us opportunities and impetus as a body, each doing our part, to make Him known among the peoples.
  - b. He sends the Spirit to do all of this—He refers to the giving of the Spirit as the promise of the Father to us.
    - Jesus, as the living head of the church is sending us and empowering us for this work by His Spirit.
    - He says, **“I send you the promise of My Father upon you... who...endues you with power from on high.”**
  - c. And not only that, but the Spirit also works in those who hear the gospel.
    - The Spirit shows them how much they need to be saved as we proclaim the Word to them...whenever Jesus causes that word to come with His authority to them.
    - The Spirit opens their heart to receive the gospel—to actually repent of their sins and to believe on Jesus Christ for forgiveness and remission of their sins...
  - d. I do not mean that everyone is sent to be an evangelist in the way that the apostles were...
    - But I mean that you are part of the church that He calls and enables to gather the nations into His glorious kingdom...
      - Whether you are living a godly example, training up your children in the Lord, inviting your neighbours to church, praying for the increase of His kingdom, encouraging your brothers and sisters in the church to live for Christ, or going as a missionary to China...
      - It is in union with our risen living Saviour that we do this great work.
3. If He were not a risen Saviour, what hope would we have?
- We would have given up long ago.
  - But Jesus is alive and He is leading us all the way, and He will not fail to gather in all His elect to His kingdom...
  - He will empower us and use us as a part of His church to do that.

**Conclusion:** So you see, as risen Lord, He not only actively deals with you as your Lord and Saviour, and constantly intercedes for you as your redeemer,

- But He also makes us, as His people, a blessing to all the nations—a people who spread His salvation into all the world.
- Our hope is not in ourselves, but in our ever living Lord and Saviour who has ascended to His throne in glory...
  - not so He can be idle there, but so that He can carry out His saving work in the world.

The sooner you see that He is alive—not just as a fact of history—but that you see Him as a risen living Saviour who engages you,

- the better it will be for you.

- Do you know Him as the Living One?
  - Does He deal with your soul?
    - Does He show you your sin and lead you to repentance?
    - Does He comfort you with His promises and salvation?
    - Do you know His daily cleansing of your sins by His redemption or are you trying to cleanse yourself?
    - And has He made you a blessing in the world?
  - Is He truly at work in you?
    - Then join His disciples of whom it is said (vs 52-53):
      - **And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.**
    - For us, Jerusalem is where the church is, and the temple is where we gather together to worship God in the name of Jesus Christ.
      - Worship Him as risen Lord every day at home and on the first day of every week in the assembly.