The CFAMC Devotional Package Resurrection Sunday Supplemental

Big Stone, Courtesy of Paolo Neo and Wikimedia Commons (Public Domain)



No bunnies, please...

I am 32 years of age; this is the first Resurrection Sunday in which I have avoided candy of all shapes and sizes, and all bunnies. I was asked to put together the church's children's program and banished all of the above from the space (and then moved aside at the end, my responsibilities complete, as others brought on the eggs and candy).

Don't get me wrong. I like eggs. I like chocolate. I don't have anything against bunnies, per se. But I just hate being distracted...

Luke 24:1-9

- 1. Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them.
 - 2. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.
 - 3. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.
 - 4. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:
 - 5. And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth,

they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

- 6. He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,
 - 7. Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.
 - 8. And they remembered his words,
 - 9. And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

Acts 1:8-11

- 8. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
 - 9. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.
 - 10. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;
- 11. Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?

 This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven,
 shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Notice Acts 1:8... the Lord Jesus has promised us power through His own dear Holy Spirit to continue telling the news this day commemorates, the news that His victory over the grave means that sin and death are forever defeated for those who believe on His name.

I have been thinking a great deal this week about the charge of a musician friend of mine that I overheard before a choir event; he and his fellow musicians had been describing the wonderful Sunday services they had enjoyed, and he added, "Keep the fire burning – maybe throw a couple more logs on there." His philosophy: why should the praise and worship of God be ever permitted to stop?

In that same sense, why should the eager witness to what the Lord has done through his death, burial, and resurrection ever be muted or confused? Think it over with me for a moment: the news this day commemorates is eternal life – ETERNAL, unending, perfect life in the presence of God – to all those that believe it. But if someone is going to believe it, there must be a clear presentation of it!

I know that all the bunnies and candy and all the rest will be on clearance sale by the time most of you read this (and April non-fools will go snap it up then), and we will all get on to whatever matters spring has before us. But, I encourage us to keep the witness going – "Keep the fire burning" – to keep giving clear testimony, in word and through music, to the wonderful fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is alive, and that because He lives, we too and all who believe on Him shall have everlasting life!