

Values: Trustworthy & Faith Formation

Matthew 6:19-21; 24

4/20/25

Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Who here wants to live Heaven on Earth? Who here wants to overcome evil? Hello? Pastor Curtis its Easter, where is the empty tomb? Why are we hearing Jesus' teaching, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be! You cannot serve God and wealth! Work first for the Kingdom of Heaven!"

Because we are here to do soul work. Some of you might be sitting here today dead in that tomb. Slaves to your own passions and sin. In a grave of darkness wanting to know the meaning of life. Maybe you are searching for meaning, searching for purpose, searching for wealth? But you are searching in the wrong places. You are searching but finding empty tombs.

Good news! You have found the right place. Jesus lives. Jesus lives among us. Jesus desires to live in you. Jesus desires for you to live Heaven on earth, but its not going to be chasing wealth.

Hear what Jesus has to offer. Hear Jesus' values in Matthew 6:25-33.

Someone asked the other day, "What is heaven like?" Friendship. Think of the best friend you have ever had. Heaven will be better! Because sin has affected even the best relationships.

Some may argue, "How do you ultimately know? You haven't been there!" But Jesus has and I trust Jesus. On Easter Sunday, I invite you to trust Jesus as well. Deepen your friendship with Him and I believe you will come to the same conclusion. Let's think about what the Bible teaches about Heaven.

Look to Revelation 21:1-5, a new Heaven and a new Earth. The Lord Jesus will be at the center of all and will wipe away every tear. Death will be no more! The Bible ends with God recreating the Universe. God desires to save us. God desires to save the universe as Romans 8 teaches us. Everything we see will be resurrected, redeemed, recreated!

What will Pastor Curtis look like in Heaven? Look to Genesis 1. God creates and God declares the creation is good. At your core you are good. The creation we see around us is good. God creates us in God's image. In Heaven, we will have 10 fingers and 10 toes.

However back to Revelation, God wants to save us from chasing wealth on the backs of other people, from sin, from death, from nothingness. Because when we chase wealth, we will find ourselves nowhere and alone: hell. God chooses to become Jesus Christ to save us from ourselves. God chooses to become Jesus Christ to teach us this morning, "You cannot serve God and wealth!" God takes on 10 fingers and 10 toes as Jesus Christ to show us, "Work first for friendship, and all this will be given to you as well!"

Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW

In Heaven we will be recreated as a Spiritual Body as Christ's Holy Spirit inspires Paul to write in 1Corinthians 15 and Philippians 3:17-4:1 with 10 fingers and 10 toes. You will not know what Pastor Curtis looks like because you have only known me affected by sin. In Heaven, sin is no longer a thing. Well, sin has never been a thing. Sin is the absence of good. If we follow sin, we will find ourselves nowhere and alone: when we chase wealth, friendship will be broken: hell.

On Easter, we celebrate that Jesus lives and desires to live in us by the power of the Holy Spirit. My experience with Jesus has been an ever-present friend. As my friendship with Jesus Christ deepens, my friendship with other people deepens. When we work on our relationships, we no longer worry about what we will eat, or drink, or wear because we work together to make these goods happen too. Work first for Friendship and you will eat, drink and be merry! As the great preacher says in Ecclesiastes 3.

When I reflect about who I am in light of Jesus Christ, I get a better understanding of myself and what it means to be human. I get a better understanding of the meaning of life, which the meaning of life is friendship. Friendship first with the Lord Jesus, as in the greatest commandment, "Love the Lord your God, with everything you do, with everything you say, with everything you are." And then friendship with other people, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself." -Matthew 22:37-39

Meaning and purpose begin with love of Jesus, then self, then others. The Bible teaches we are essentially good. We are God's precious children that God desires to save. I don't believe God wants to see a single person in Hell. It's the opposite of friendship. If you follow the way of sin, you will find yourself nowhere and alone. If you chase wealth, you will find yourself nowhere and alone: hell. Work first for the Kingdom of Heaven and true wealth, friendship, will be given to you.

When you follow Jesus Christ, you will find yourself in friendship, in Heaven, building the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth. You don't have to wait for death to know what Heaven is like. You can begin friendship with Jesus Christ right now. Begin talking to Jesus now. Begin reading about Jesus in your Bible today. Begin worshipping with other Christians weekly to deepen your friendships.

Love,
Pastor Curtis

Trustworthy – *if we live by the above values, we will earn the trust of the community and will be able to fulfill our purpose.*

Faith Formation – *Lead from faith in Christ for faith in Christ. We will cultivate our own robust spirituality.*