Pastor Mark Schmechel Series: *Life After Death*

March 31, 2024 Matt. 28; Rev 1:17-18

IF JESUS IS ALIVE, WHY DON'T I THRIVE?

If Jesus is alive, why don't I thrive?

Matthew 28:1 (NIV) After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

- If He rose, it's ALL true.
- If He did not rise, NONE of it's true.

3 ways to Thrive.

1). Evaluate the Evidence

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, <u>afraid</u> yet filled with <u>joy</u>, and ran to tell his disciples.

- a). The Empty Tomb discovered by women.
- b). The Disciples were willing to die.
- c). The Empty Tomb.

Matthew 28:11 (NIV) While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. ¹² When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money

2). Doubt Forward

Matthew 28:17 (NIV) When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

3). Consider Life After Death

Sponge View:

Picker View:

Key View:

Revelation 1:17 (NIV) When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!

Revelation 1:18 (NIV) And I hold the keys to death and hades!

Romans 10:9 (ESV) <u>If you</u> confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.