

This week is our Easter weekend service. Andy speaks on "A Matter of life and Death...And Life". His message begins with a tragic video excerpt from a movie. In this film, a father must choose between sacrificing his son to save a train load of people or allowing the train to wreck to save his own son. Torn between the choices, at the last possible minute the father closes the railroad bridge knowing that his son has accidentally fallen into the inner workings of that bridge. The train passes over the bridge and the film shows the passengers inside, unaware of the tragedy that has spared them from a deadly wreck, going on with their lives. The son is killed by closing the bridge, but one passenger on the train at the same time decides to turn from a life of drugs. Later, we see this person looking healthy and now having children of her own. She was given time to change because of this father's selfless sacrifice.

Andy reminds us that 86% of America believes in the Resurrection. It is the resurrection that is a focal point of the Christian faith. Unlike all other founders of faiths of the world, only Jesus Christ was raised bodily from the dead. Only he chose to allow himself to be put to death for sins that he himself did not commit. Only Jesus had these specific events prophesied in detail hundreds of years before his birth.

Andy says that the traditional message of Easter has three main narratives. The first is that "Everyone Needs a Savior". Sin results in destruction, but, like the father in the movie, God put His own son to death to save us from destruction while we were completely unaware. God is not looking for "perfect people", but He is looking for "perfect" people through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

The second narrative is that "A Sacrifice Was Made For You". God loves you so much that He gave FIRST. It is not that He responded to you. God is thinking about you and wanting the best for you every second of every day. It is for You to respond to HIM.

The last narrative is that "God Offers You His Gift Of Grace". There is nothing that you can do to cause God to love you any more than he already does. God swore that sin would result in death. God never breaks his word. His love for you is why He sent Jesus to become a human being like us, and then to willingly die for the sin each of us commits. God kept His word. Your sin resulted in death, but by faith Jesus has died that death in your place. Just as Jesus rose from the dead on that Easter morning, you have been given a new life beyond the power of death. You have eternity and it is a gift.

How will you live your "new life" from here on out?