

Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

“When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. (Pro 16:7)

**Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,
(2Ti 1:9)**

www.sermonaudio.com/crc

www.unholycharade.com (blog)

www.lightfordarktimes.com (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

The Doctrine of Eternal Punishment (Part 7)

Even if One Rises from the Dead

Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

Sermon Text: Luke 16:19-31
(The Rich Man and Lazarus)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28

This Lord's Day is Easter Sunday in which we particularly remember the resurrection of the Lord Jesus

from the tomb. The Scripture we have been studying carefully these last 6 Sundays is an appropriate Scripture for Easter. Why? Because of this:

"And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' "But Abraham *said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' "But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' "But he said to him, 'If

they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead." (Luk 16:27-31)

And so it is. One HAS risen from the dead. The tomb is empty. We have the record of it and this record includes the testimony of witnesses:

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and

last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. (1Co 15:1-8)

And yet, in spite of it, man in his sin simply will not believe that He is risen. People demand more:

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; (Mat 12:38-39)

Don't confuse them with the facts. And so we have it here – *If they do not listen to Scripture, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.*

NOTE: Delusional people will never be convinced of the fallacy of their delusion no matter how many facts are put before them. There is good reason to conclude that we are increasingly seeing millions of people today who have refused to love the truth being given a spirit of delusion by God as

judgment so that they cannot believe the truth. And we see it in the Bible's account of these people who demanded more evidence when the Word Himself was right in front of them, performing miracles, and ultimately would rise from the dead.

Listen to John Calvin on this:

“The doctrine of the Bible is little esteemed by the world, the Prophets and Law are neglected, and no man submits to hear God speaking in the manner HE has chosen. Some would desire that angels should descend from heaven; others that the dead should come out of their graves; others, that new miracles should be performed every day to sanction what they hear; and others, that voices should be heard from the sky. *But if God were pleased to comply with all their foolish wishes, it would be of no advantage to them; for God has included in His Word all that is necessary to be known, and the authority of this word has been attested and proved by authentic seals.*

Besides, faith does not depend on miracles or any extraordinary sign, but is the peculiar gift of the Spirit and is produced *by means of the Word*. It is the prerogative of God to draw us to Himself, and He is pleased to do so effectually *through His own Word*.

There is nothing to which sinful flesh is more strongly inclined than to listen to vain [useless] revelations; and we see how eagerly these men, to whom the whole of Scripture is an object of dislike, throw themselves into the snares of Satan. Hence have arisen necromancy and other delusions, which the world not only gladly receives, but runs after with furious rage.

But all that is here affirmed by Christ is, that even the dead could not reform or bring to a sound mind, those who are deaf and obstinate against the instruction of Scripture.”

And is this not the very thing we see all around us today? Clearly it

is. People detest the Bible's plain teaching and readily embrace Satan's lies and messengers. *If a person does not love truth, if they would rather hear lies, the point will come when God will hand them over to their lies so that even the resurrection of Christ will not convince them.*

Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (Rom 1:24-25)

And one day the entire world will bow down to Antichrist, blinded by the delusional spirit God sends upon them. Christ is risen! The tomb is empty! But the travelers on Broadway still will not believe the gospel and be saved.

And here we have the Rich Man insisting that if Lazarus were to return from the dead and warn those wicked brothers, "*if someone*

goes to them from the dead, they will repent!" No, they would not.

NOTE: This is a huge reason why it is VITAL for us to faithfully attend to the preaching of God's Word. It is the primary means by which He brings us to saving faith:

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? (Rom 10:14)

For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Heb 4:12)

"The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have in common with grain?" declares the LORD. "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a

hammer which shatters a rock? (Jer 23:28-29)

Let's call on Jonathan Edwards to remind us of some reasons why God's Word is a far greater means of awakening the sinner than miracles are.

"The warnings of God's Word are more fitted to accomplish the awakening of sinners, bringing them to repentance, than the rising of one from the dead to warn them." [Edwards]

The rich man, like so many today, insisted that if God would provide them with miracles and "proof," then they would repent and believe in Christ. If only Lazarus would go back from the dead and warn them!

NOTE: If this be true then – ie, Moses and the Prophets (Old Testament Scripture) – then consider how much more of His Word we have now.

"If only the warnings of the Old Testament have more power to bring men to repentance as

someone rising from the dead, then surely the clearer revelation under the gospel era in which we live as given to us by Christ and His Apostles is even more effectual." [Edwards]

And thus we have this warning:

For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will. (Heb 2:1-4)

Listen again to Edwards:

"Sinners are apt to find fault with the means of grace which they possess [ie, The Word of God, the

gospel] and to say to themselves, 'If only I had seen hell, or had heard the cries of the damned, or had seen a person who had felt hell-torments, THAT would awaken me to believe. THEN I would forsake all my sins and would do whatever I could to escape hell. But now I only am told of hell in the Bible and by my preachers and there is no one in this world who actually saw it or felt it, so I am left to think it is a mere delusion. How do I know there is a hell? Perhaps when I die it will be the end for me and I will no longer exist.'"

This then is the typical reasoning of the sinner. He finds fault with the means God has provided for his salvation. Because man in his sin hates the idea of breaking off from his sins and humbling himself before Christ, he energetically works to find fault with the Word of God, claiming it is not sufficient – that it is not “enough.” No, they must see hell for themselves or at least see some person who has seen it.

And thus we have all of these claims on social media and

published in books of people who supposedly went to hell and have come back and people flock to them.

And yet, consider carefully the fallacy of all this wicked thinking. God is our Creator. He above anyone else knows our nature, our circumstances, and exactly what means is best suited for us. Is it not reasonable that God would use the very best means to bring sinners to saving faith?

Suppose, now, that a person in hell did come back from the dead to warn sinners about the misery and torment awaiting all who die without Christ, *but would such a person know better than God Himself what hell is? And do we not have God's own descriptions given us in His Word?*

“God knows far better what the eternity of those torments is than anyone else. He knows better what the future judgment of sinners will be when the Lord Jesus shall come in flaming fire to take vengeance upon them that do not know Him

and do not obey the gospel.”
[Edwards]

And where do we find HIS warnings? *In His Word.*

Furthermore, consider this: *“If someone rose from the dead to tell us about the dreadfulness of hell’s torments, would we not still be uncertain whether it was not some delusion? God cannot lie. But if one should come from the dead, we could not be so sure that this supposed witness was not under some delusion himself. There is no authority superior to God Himself. And perhaps this supposed witness from the dead were an agent of Satan come to deceive us?”*
[Edwards]

And more....man in his sin is so hardened in heart that even if God did send us messengers from the dead, in his sin the sinner would not listen. He would not repent.

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who **PLANTED A VINEYARD AND PUT A WALL AROUND IT AND DUG A WINE PRESS IN IT, AND**

BUILT A TOWER, and rented it out to vine-growers and went on a journey. "When the harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. "The vine-growers took his slaves and beat one, and killed another, and stoned a third. "Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. "But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' "But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' "They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. (Mat 21:33-39)

This Easter morning we remember Christ risen from the dead! We have it right here in God’s Word, and by His Son the Lord has spoken to us. But what is this world of sinners doing today? Are they listening to this One who has risen from the dead? The answer is, of course, no.

“If a person will not listen to the Son of God and His Word given

through His Apostles by His Spirit, neither will they listen if someone rises from the dead.”

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (Heb 1:1-2)

And here we have it right here! His Word. How foolish we are if we wander in our thoughts, thinking that *“if only, if only He would speak directly to me...”* –

But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows: "DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?' (that is, to bring Christ down), or 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth

Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; (Rom 10:6-9)

Is this not exactly what we see so much of in our day? *“Send me someone who has ascended into heaven or send me someone who has descended into the abyss.”* When in fact God’s Word is right here! Telling us, simply turn in faith to Christ, trust in Him alone, confess with your mouth and believe in your heart!

Let’s close with a few more words from Edwards:

“If God’s means will not answer for our salvation, nothing will. Our own devised means, however they may seem more likely to be effective will not prove to be better. If one rising from the dead would not answer the purpose, we may logically concluded that no other kind of means except that appointed by God would. Indeed, men can think of many means which they imagine that, if they possessed them, would surely make

them believe and repent. But they deceive themselves.

It may be, they think, that if they could just see some prophet, and see him work miracles, that this would awaken them and enable them to believe. But what happened when God DID send His prophets? There has rarely been a more degenerate time than that of Elijah and Elisha, who worked so many great miracles. Yet the people did not regard their word nor their miracles but rather continued to walk in their own wicked ways, serving other gods so that Elijah came to think there no one left who was a true worshipper of God.

And how did the people respond the Jeremiah was sent by the Lord, solemnly warning them of their approaching destruction? Did not all the prophets of God complain that no one heard their word! Who has believed our report?

Or, consider further, you say that you would believe if you could just hear God speak from heaven. How was it in Moses time when the people did hear God speak out of

the midst of fire and heard the voice shake the mountain so that the people trembled? How was it? They made themselves a calf-idol before the Lord was even finished giving His Law.

These were the ones who had seen God's mighty works against Pharaoh in Egypt. Who had crossed the Red Sea on dry land. They saw the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

And yet there is more.

People today are prone to think that if they had just lived in the time of Christ and had seen and heard him and had seen his miracles, surely they would have been effectually convinced and repented and believed. And yet, in those days of our Lord here in this world, what was the result in the large majority of the people? They rejected Him and crucified Him.

And then, even when He rose from the dead, even when the tomb was empty, they invented a lie that the disciples had come and stolen the body.”

from Him who warns from heaven.
(Heb 12:25)

Let us each one examine ourselves. God has spoken to us in His Son. Are we listening to Him? Or are we neglecting His Word and listening to someone else because we don't think this Bible is enough?

"But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'" (Luk 16:31)

And thus we see it. *If God's appointed means of bringing sinners to saving faith nothing else will effect salvation – not even if one rises from the dead.*

The best means of awakening and saving are plentifully enjoyed by us, much more plentifully than they were by those who had only Moses and the Prophets. The Word of God is that pearl of great price which, if we are wise, we will give all to have. Therefore, we must hear it, we must take every opportunity to listen while we have that opportunity, because we do not know how soon we may be deprived of it." [Edwards]

Christ the Lord is Risen! He has spoken and He speaks to us right here in His Word which is His appointed means of bringing us to salvation.

See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away