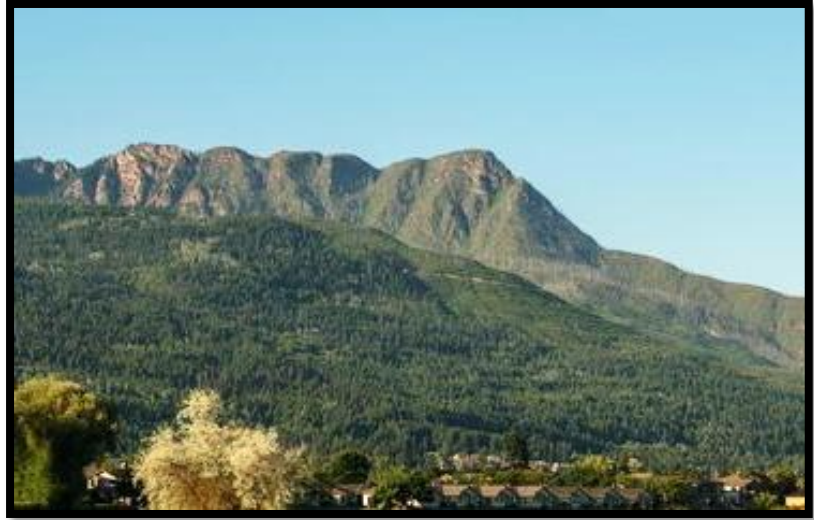


Resurrection Day

April 12, 2020

Have you noticed the flowers that have started blooming this week? I love this time of year! The trees and shrubs that were bare during winter are now starting to sprout leaves and tiny new branches. Plants that had died-back in the fall and disappeared are now popping-up through the ground.

This is a picture of Mt. Ida, in Salmon Arm, BC. In 1998 a wildfire destroyed all the mature pine trees from the mountain, leaving nothing behind. Do you see the faint green that has started taking over the top of the mountain? Those are new trees that have started to grow where there used to be only scorched earth. Sometimes in nature, death of one thing is necessary to give life to another.



I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24, NIV)

Anything that goes against the expressed will of God is sin, and the consequence of sin is death and eternal separation from God. While we may think of ourselves as a mostly good person, there are times when we have willingly or unintentionally gone against God's will. And being *mostly good* isn't enough to gain freedom from the consequences of our sin.

However, Jesus paid the price for this freedom when he chose to die in our place on the cross. And His resurrection gives us life and the hope of an eternity united with our Father in heaven!

Read Matthew 28:1-10

- 1) Who visits the tomb? When?

2) How were they feeling on the way to the tomb? What are they expecting?

3) How do you think the women felt as they left the tomb? After seeing the resurrected Jesus?

4) How do you think you might respond when you see Jesus for the first time?

5) When you think about heaven, what are you looking forward to most?

Close with a prayer of gratitude.