

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship This Sunday

MARCH 31, 2024 ~ 9:00 AM

Services on YouTube

Meadowbrookbaptist.cc

EASTER SUNDAY

FELLOWSHIP TIME AFTER WORSHIP

R. G. Lee, one of Southern Baptist's most renowned preachers said, "Nineteen drops of water will keep forty Baptists out of church." Look at what Covid has done to us. If you no longer come, let this week be your "come back to church" week. The need you and you need the church. Vance Havner said, "Church is like two porcupines huddled together on a cold night. They "needle" each other, but they "need" each other."

THE RESURRECTION AND THE CHURCH

One thing the Romans knew how to do was to kill people. If a prisoner escaped, they executed the guards. That is why the jailer in Acts 16 started to kill himself when he thought Paul and Silas were gone. That is why the soldiers at the cross made sure all three prisoners were dead.

Jesus' death was public. Two influential men in Jerusalem, members of the Supreme Court helped bury him. The burial, like the death, was certified by the Jewish and Roman authorities who sealed the tomb and put soldiers to guard it.

Think what death did to Jesus - physically! It took Him away. That mighty life was gone as gentle friends took His pale body down, drained of life

and stained with bruises, cuts, blood, sweat tears and the spit of others.

- Those strong, tender hands that built plows, hugged children and cleansed lepers were now limp, scarred and still.

- Those feet that helped Him stand tall to aid His friends and face up to all the howling winds of temptation, were limp and bloody.

- His kingly head now hung low and was scarred by thorns. His gentle side was ripped open by Roman steel.

- His piercing eyes, full of compassion, warming the soul and burning at sin, were now glazed and blind.

- His matchless voice, fountain of the Father's thoughts, was stilled, to speak no more. Death took away the Jesus they knew and loved.

The result was a dead church When Jesus died the church and Christianity died with Him. One word that characterized His followers was *FEAR*. Even the Apostles ran away and were hiding behind locked doors like timid rabbits (20:19).

There was *HOPELESSNESS AND DESPAIR*. Their hopes and dreams had died with Him. The breakdown was complete. Now all they could do was go home and go back to the old life. These were beaten, disillusioned, despairing and frightened people.

But something changed all this. The dead church became a dynamic church. Cowards were instantly filled with new *COURAGE*. A dead group of people became a dynamic group. Hope had been restored and even the fear of death