



SOUTHBRIDGE
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Easter: “Real” Freedom

Sunday, April 12, 2009

Pastor Darin Poli

Matthew 27:51-53 (NLT)

At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart,⁵² and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead.⁵³ They left the cemetery after Jesus’ resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

REAL LIFE

Romans 7:15-17, 19, 21, 24 (NLT)

I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate.¹⁶ But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good.¹⁷ So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don’t. I don’t want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.²¹ I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.²⁴ Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

1. _____

v.15 I don’t really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don’t do it. Instead, I do what I hate.

2. _____

v. 21 I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong.

3. _____

v.24 Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?

EXPERIENCING “REAL” FREEDOM

Romans 7:25a (NLT) Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.

1. _____ the real issue

v. 17 So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

I John 1:8 (NLT) If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth.

2. _____ that Jesus can set me _____.

Ephesians 4:18b (NLT)...they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him.

Ephesians 1:19-20a (NLT) I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead.

3. _____ all I am to Christ.

Mark 8:34 (The Message) Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am.

Revelation 3:20 (NLT) “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”