

# REFLECTION

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When the Apostle Paul ‘introduced himself’ to the Christians in Rome as he began to write his ‘Letter to the Romans’, he started by declaring the gospel (or good news) he believed in and preached ... ‘the Good News about God’s Son, ... who was shown to be the Son of God when He was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord.’ *(Romans 1:3-4)*

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Think about that ... The man, Jesus, was shown to be the Son of God/God the Son by His resurrection.

The Apostle Paul also wrote ...

Thank God – He gives us victory over sin and death, through our Lord Jesus Christ. *(1 Corinthians 15:57)*

And ...

Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumphal procession with Christ. *(2 Corinthians 2:14)*

Victory over death – Yes! But more than that ... ALWAYS in triumphal procession ...

‘The triumphal procession goes down the road of life, not just through the gateway of death.’

What does that thought mean for you? What do you want to be walking in ‘triumphal procession’ over right now?

In our worship service on Easter Sunday, we heard several people briefly share their answers to the question, ‘What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for you?’ ... What would your testimony be in response to that question?



**VICTORY**  
*in Christ*

== ROMANS 6-8 ==

# DISCUSSION

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## Renewal

Creation is imbued with cycles of loss and renewal. We hear about stars dying and the birth of new stars; we walk through leaf litter in a glade of trees, and see the new life that pushes through it ... It is a necessary cycle – death and resurrection are lived out at every level of the universe, a cycle that brings advancement, growth and salvation ... yet when we are involuntarily pulled into the orbit of loss and renewal, we try to wriggle out of it – avoid or modify it – but we can't!

As a nation, as a planet, we are presently on the loss side of this cycle, and it hurts. If only we can go back to last month, or last year. But this is not possible. And if it were, would it really be desirable? It's the possibility of renewal, of something better, that invites us to trust, to let go, yes, even to dream and imagine a different future.

How can we see the seeds of renewal during this season of loss? What is the new and better that you can begin to possibly envisage now?

*(It could be as mundane as our kids finally understanding excellent hygiene habits! Perhaps the renewed looks like greater financial prudence and preparation ... Maybe it's the love and care expressed by knowing all my neighbours by name and them knowing I'm here for them. Or new business ideas and strategies starting to invade your thinking. For our church, it could be the thought of intentionally moving away from attractional Christianity and embracing radically different models to connect with society.)*

To understand the universality of cycles of death and resurrection is to be determined not to go back to the way it was. To go back is to not trust the Master of resurrection, to go back is to deny ourselves the opportunity to advance, to progress.

God – the God who raised Jesus, His Son, from the dead, by the power of His Spirit ... the God who is ALWAYS leading us in triumphal procession because of Jesus' victory over sin and death ... God is always at work for GOOD! Working all things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (*Romans 8:28*). Are you open to and trusting in the work of renewal God is doing right now, in you and through you?

# PRAYER

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Today I surrender to the One who is “resurrection and life.”  
I surrender myself to possibilities, to seeds of newness for my life, my family, my business, my church. Before You, my Lord, I acknowledge that without You I can do nothing, but with You, all things are possible.

I invite You, God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – to sow into my thinking, my feeling, and my believing the seeds of tomorrow’s new things. May these seeds quickly become stronger than the pain of loss. I put my trust in You. Amen.



Seek the Kingdom of God  
above all else, and live  
righteously, and he will give  
you everything you need.

Matthew 6:33