



BELIEVING WHAT WE BELIEVE **“Joy in Mourning” Mark 16:1-8**

No. 6858

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The devoted women who had stayed with Jesus throughout His ordeal on the Cross and had witnessed the removal and burial of His lifeless body retired to their homes to spend a desolate Sabbath in abject despair. But as soon as the mandatory Sabbath ended they shopped for spices and made their way to the Tomb.

I. The Dark Night of the Soul.

- A. Visions of inhumane brutality.
- B. Shattered dreams.
- C. Irreversible loss.
- D. The icy grip of fear.
- E. The emptiness of hopelessness.

II. The Resolve of the Human Spirit.

- A. Despite insurmountable odds they persist.
- B. Though answers evade them they continue to question.
- C. They focus entirely on doing the right thing!

III. A Glimmer of Light.

- A. The stone is removed.
- B. The tomb is empty.
- C. The body is missing.
- D. The angel is speaking.
- E. The message is unequivocal – He is risen!
- F. But what does that mean – they're confused, amazed, bewildered and afraid?
- G. Clue: this is all “just as He told you” – see Mark 8:31f; John 16:5f, Mark 14:27-31.
- H. They were to return to Galilee for further clarification.

IV. Easter Is Dawning.

- A. Christ appears visibly, physically, recognizably, but different! See Matt 28:16f, 1 Cor. 15:1-10.
- B. Some worshiped, some doubted!
- C. But to all of them He made stupendous promises and issued a far reaching mandate.
- D. They recognized Jesus' deity, they'd seen death conquered, they saw Him exalted. Acts 2

V. The Son Has Fully Risen.

- A. The Spirit revealed to Paul the resurrection implications for time and eternity. 1 Cor. 15
- B. God had done a new thing - he had begun a New Creation and the end is glory!
- C. We are called to live rejoicing that Christ the Lord is risen today.