



SERMON OUTLINE – EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018

What Do You Want on Your Gravestone?

(1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

INTRODUCTION: *How about some holy Easter laughter
& some funny gravestone epitaphs . . .*

I. WHAT DO YOU WANT ON YOUR GRAVESTONE?

- A. Here are a few samples of gravestone messages from believers & from unbelievers . . .
- B. What a difference Easter faith makes! (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

II. ST. PAUL TELLS US **IF JESUS' RESURRECTION DID NOT HAPPEN, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE TRAGIC**

- A. Listens to his terrible list of six **possible** realities (1 Corinthians 15:13-19)
- B. But this **wrong** assumption leads to **wrong** conclusions, for Christ is risen (1 Corinthians 15:20)
- C. If Jesus had a gravestone it would have read:
He is not here, He is risen! (Mark 16:6)

III. JESUS' RESURRECTION DECLARES A NUMBER OF WONDERFUL TRUTHS

- A. He is the *first fruits* (1 Corinthians 15:20), the sample & example of those trusting in Him who will rise from death as well (1 Corinthians 15:21-22)
- B. His resurrection and ours changes us on the inside (sins forgiven) and the outside (glorious resurrection body) (1 Corinthians 15-53)
- C. Easter's triumph is enough to make us laugh out loud!
+ Here's poem entitled – *Celebrate Easter with the Right of Laughter*
- D. God invites us to a “resurrection picnic” (Revelation 21:4; 1 Corinthians 15:55-57)
- E. Death is a reality, but it does NOT have the last word
+ Dr. Donald Barnhouse house to his children – *Touched by death's shadow but Jesus has destroyed the power of death*

CONCLUSION: *The epitaph on Benjamin Franklin's gravestone:*

**Like the cover of an old book
Its contents worn out,
and stripped of its lettering and guiding.
Lies here food for worms.
But the work shall not be lost
For it will appear once more,
in a new and more elegant edition,
Revised and corrected by **the Author****