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The Resurrection Reality

Have you ever been in a situation where you knew what was right but, for whatever reason, you made a decision contrary to that? Then, after it was done, you looked back at the results and thought, “What in the world was I thinking? Why did I do something stupid like that?” It happens with:

- ill thought-out or hurtful words that we utter,
- actions we take which end up going sour,
- relationships that we somehow neglect or abuse,
- carelessness in taking care of our bodies,
- neglect of our core values,
- bad business or financial decisions,
- and many others.

This kind of thing happens to all of us, and when it does we cry in our souls for a “do-over.” We all like fresh starts.

The truth is, there are nearly always unfortunate consequences which occur when we take a wrong path in life. But the good news is, there are also possibilities for that fresh start. A fresh start does not necessarily eliminate the unfortunate things that happened because of our bone-headed decisions, but it does provide a way to put it behind us and move forward with confidence and joy into the future.

Perhaps the greatest fresh start it is possible to have in life relates to the very foundation of our personhood. As we examine the way we live our lives, it quickly becomes evident that there is something wrong at the very core of our being. I think we can all identify with the heart cry that the Apostle Paul expressed in Romans 7:21-24 when he said: *So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?*

The good news is that there is a means for dealing with our tendency to think and do wrong, and it is found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. By his resurrection from the dead, Jesus demonstrated that he was God incarnate and that he has power over sin and death – the very things which create within us our evil tendencies. In Ephesians 2:4-5, Paul expressed to us how this works. *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions....* When we put our lives in his hands, we receive the mercy he offers and are, ourselves, resurrected out of the spiritual death that is our natural lot in life. This puts us in a position to take advantage of a new beginning for our lives.

Of course, this does not mean that we will never goof up again. We live in a fallen world and our very lives are a reflection of that. But as we contemplate the implications of the Easter event, it does mean that there is forgiveness and the opportunity for a fresh start.

