Pastor Chuck Circle April 8, 2012 AM

"GRAND OPENINGS"

Matthew 27:50-54

Today we celebrate the greatest grand opening in the world!

- This resurrection Sunday we remember that Christ rose from the grave

Today we want to look at some "Grand Openings" that happened as a result of Christ's death.

CHRIST'S DEATH PROVIDED A "GRAND OPENING" FOR THE DOORS OF DELIVERANCE!

Because of Christ's Death:

I. THE TEMPLE IS OPENED (51)

A. THE RECORD

- 1. Christ died on the cross (50)
- 2. God divided the curtain (51)

B. THE REALITY

- 1. Consequences
 - No more restrictions, reservations, representatives, returning or ritual
- 2. Communion

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Hebrews 10:19-22

C. THE RECIPIENTS

- 1. Those who were seeking God
- 2. Priests and worshippers gathered in the temple at 3:00 PM

Christ's death delivers seekers from barriers!

- This is a "Grand Opening!"

Because of Christ's Death:

II. THE TOMBS WERE OPENED (52-53)

A. THE RECORD

- 1. Note the Cemetery
- 2. Note the Saints
- 3. Note the Situation

B. THE REALITY

- 1. These are An Illustration Lev. 23:10-14
- 2. These are An Indication I Corinthians 15
- a. An indication of God's promise **I Cor. 15:20-22** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. ²¹ For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.
- b. An indication of God's plan I Cor. 15:50-57

C. THE RECIPIENTS

- 1. "Saints"
- 2. Those who had put their hope and faith in the promised Messiah

Christ's death delivers saints from burial!

- That is a "Grand Opening!"

Because of Christ's Death:

III. THE TOUGH ARE OPENED (54)

A. THE RECORD

- 1. They are hearers of Christ's encounters
- 2. They are hardened by their employment
- 3. They are horrified by the unexpected events
- 4. They are heartened by their realization

B. THE REALITY

- 1. Christ's Death
- 2. Christ's Deliverance Romans 5:1 .

C. THE RECIPIENT

- Sinner soldiers!

Christ's death delivers sinners from bondage!

- This is truly a "Grand Opening!"

CONCLUSION:

As we consider the "Grand Openings" associated with Christ's death, we never walk away disappointed, disgusted or disgruntled saying, "NO BIG DEAL."

CHRIST'S DEATH OPENED WIDE THE DOORS OF DELIVERANCE

- I. The TEMPLE is opened
 - Christ's death delivers seekers from barriers
- II. The TOMBS were opened
 - Christ's death delivers saints from burial
- III. The TOUGH are opened
 - Christ's death delivers sinners from bondage

These are truly unexpected, undeniable and unbelievable Grand Openings!