

Will Your Anchor Hold?

“Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?” So asked Priscilla Owens. Coastal people well know what happens to things that are not secured. Sometimes, we are reminded of the futility of even our best efforts against winds and waves. Last month, Minas Basin winds knocked over a play structure we installed for grandchildren. They lifted and toppled a heavy wooden fort, pulling out anchors, and causing costly damage. Anchors sunk into soft wet soil were no match for storm gusts!

But, Owens confidently proclaimed: “We have an anchor that keeps the soul steadfast and sure while the billows roll; fastened to the Rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love!”

The Christian faith is anchored firmly in the rock of the resurrected Jesus; and it is no mere myth or nice ideal. After the Romans had crucified him, people met Jesus alive. These first Christians knew that the resurrection set Jesus apart from every other religious founder. And until today, no one else has ever died and risen from the dead, never to die again.

Two months after the resurrection, Apostle Peter preached to his fellow Jews and their leaders, gathered in Jerusalem for a festival. After affirming the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, he proclaimed: “let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2:36). Two decades later, Apostle Paul wrote that Jesus Christ our Lord “was declared to be Son of God with power ... by resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1: 4). These Christians claimed that the resurrection was Divine proof that Jesus is Lord, Messiah, and Son of God!

Some Christians in Corinth did not believe that Jesus had died and literally lived again. They were sophisticated Greek Christians who believed it was a spiritual resurrection. So, Paul restated his most important teaching: “Christ died for our sins ..., was buried, and was raised on the third day ..., and appeared to Cephas [Peter], then to the twelve, then to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive.... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ... He appeared to me also” (1 Corinthians 15: 3-8).

Paul’s faith was anchored in the resurrected Jesus, and his claims –something of a challenge– would be foolish if the facts proved to be false: “If you don’t believe me, find out for yourselves. In Jerusalem, hundreds are still alive who witnessed the resurrected Jesus with their own eyes. Please, send someone to fact-check!” And, Paul himself was boldly confident in the facts he taught!

So we may be confident! Easter is God's invitation to anchor our lives in the firmest rock of all, in Jesus, for He is risen, indeed!