

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

April 17, 2022

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CAN THE VARIOUS RESURRECTION ACCOUNTS FROM THE FOUR GOSPELS BE HARMONIZED?

The events surrounding Jesus' resurrection can be difficult to piece together. We must remember two things: first, the news of Jesus' resurrection produced much excitement in Jerusalem, and in the ensuing chaos many people were going many different directions. Groups were separated, and several different groups paid visits to the tomb, possibly more than once. Second, the writers of the Gospels did not attempt an exhaustive narrative; in other words, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had no intention of telling us every detail of the resurrection or every event in the order that it happened.

In the battle with skeptics regarding Jesus' resurrection, Christians are in a no-win situation. If the accounts harmonize perfectly, skeptics will claim that the writers of the Gospels conspired together. If the accounts have some differences, skeptics will claim that the Gospels contradict each other and therefore cannot be trusted.

However, even if the resurrection accounts cannot be perfectly harmonized, that does not make them untrustworthy. By any reasonable evaluation, the resurrection accounts from the four Gospels are superbly consistent eyewitness testimonies. The central truths—that Jesus was resurrected from the dead and that the resurrected Jesus appeared to many people—are clearly taught in each of the four Gospels. The apparent inconsistencies are in “side issues”. How many angels did they see in the tomb, one or two? Perhaps one person saw only one angel, while the other person saw two angels. To how many women did Jesus appear, and to whom did He appear first? While each Gospel has a slightly different sequence to the appearances, none of them claims to be giving the precise chronological order. So, while the resurrection accounts may seem to be inconsistent, it cannot be proven that the accounts are contradictory.

Encourage one another in love and good deeds. Hebrews 10:23-24

Pray for the sick: We have many on our prayer list. You may not know some of them, but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up.

Faith Fooks, Dave Newberry, Gloria Hurley, Terry Hastings, Kay Murphy, Kristy Brady, Robin Anderson, Natalie Anderson, Pat Tucker, Bobby Phillips, Sandi Holt, Michelle Tucker, Eleanor Roulis, all with continuing health concerns.

On-going personal Bible studies.

Carol (Sandi's friend) tongue cancer, on Hospice.

Mothers to be; Courtney and Megan Hudson-twins

Ruth Banks (Jean's sister); eyes

Mark Hudson-upcoming surgery

Amy Mathis; back pain

Pete Hudson-completed tests, awaiting results

Jenny Womersley, Doris Mathis; therapy

World turmoil; people of Ukraine and Russia

Maddie's Aunt Susan; knee replacement

Shane (Joel & Tina's Son-in-law; growth on face

Those traveling; Lanny & Karen, Penni, Snyders,

Wayne & Doris.

Andy M. (Exec. Director Camp Manatawny); health

WOMEN TO WOMEN WORKSHOP May 7th.

POTLUCK FELLOWSHIP MEAL April 24th.

MEN'S DAY April 30th with Brenn White.

EASTER EGG HUNT TODAY following worship.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST May 8 hosted by Julie Snyder. There is a sign-up sheet if planning to come. Food will be ready by 8:00 but you may eat anytime between 8:00-9:00.

SPRING CLEANUP will be whole month of May.

MEN TO SERVE:

Welcome/Scripture: Bobby-17th; Philip-24th

Prayer: Julio-17th; Troy M.-24th

Table: Dave-17th; Christian-24th

Announcements/closing prayer: Daniel-17th; Dave

Song leader: David-17th; Daniel-24th



Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:
www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Teen Devo 6:00 p.m.

Thursday:

Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).