

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

December 25, 2022

It's a Wonderful Life: 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 What if Jesus Had Never Been Resurrected?



Like many families, we have a tradition of watching Christmas movies over the holiday season. One of our favorites is Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*, which was originally released in 1946.

I did not really appreciate this movie when I was younger, but now it has become one of my favorite movies of all time. The story has especially been on my mind this year as both Kate and Sara were musicians in their school production of a live radio play of *It's a Wonderful Life* back in early December.

About $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the story, George Bailey is facing a crisis and considering taking his own life when he encounters the angel, Clarence Odbody. George dramatically declares to Clarence:

"I wish I'd never been born!"

In response to this, Clarence gives George a glimpse of what would have happened if that wish had been true. He sees that:

- Mr. Gower went to jail for accidentally poisoning a child.
- Mary Hatch never married or had children.
- Uncle Billy was placed in a mental institution after the collapse of the Bailey Bros. Building and Loan.
- Henry F. Potter took over Bedford Falls and it became Pottersville.
- Harry Bailey died in the lake when he fell through the ice as a boy.
- Bailey Park is a cemetery where Harry Bailey is buried.

After seeing these things, George is heartbroken and exclaims in prayer:

"I want to live again. Please...let me live again!"

He now understands that his life truly has been wonderful and had caused all those things to be different:

FOR God so loved THE world that He gave HIS ONE & ONLY Son, THAT whoever believes in HIM shall NOT perish but have ETERNAL life.
John 3:16

"Sing, O heavens, for the Lord has done it! Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest and every tree in it! For the Lord has redeemed Jacob, and glorified Himself in Israel."

Check us out on facebook as pleasantviewcoc for upcoming sermon and bible class topics

We will not have an evening service today. We encourage you to spend time as a family in devotion to God

- George saved Mr. Gower from accidentally poisoning a child.
- George saved Harry Bailey from drowning in the lake.
- Harry Bailey went to war and earned the congressional medal of honor for saving troops aboard a transport ship.
- Mary Hatch married George and they had four children and restored the old Granville house.
- George runs the Building and Loan after the death of his father.
- Uncle Billy helps George run the Building and Loan, and they keep Potter from taking over the town. The Building and Loan provides opportunities for low-income families to have homes in Bailey Park.

“If Christ has not been raised...”

This central part of the story has taken my mind back to something Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15. Like Clarence giving a glimpse to George, Paul gives us a glimpse of what would have happened if Jesus had never been resurrected from the dead (13). He says that:

- His preaching would be in vain and misrepresenting God (14-15).
- Our faith would be in vain and futile (14, 17).
- We would still be in our sins or would have perished (i.e., *We would not have been born again* - 17-18; John 3:1-8).
- Our hope would be in this life only and we would be most pitied (*It would not be a wonderful life* - 19).

“Christ has been raised from the dead...”

After giving this quick glimpse, Paul then clearly states it is “fact” that Christ was resurrected (20). In view of this resurrection, Paul says that:

- “In Christ shall all be made alive...” (21-22) - The resurrection provides the opportunity to “**live again**” and have *a wonderful life*.
- Christ reigns as the king who destroyed death (23-28).

Without the resurrection of Jesus, we would be facing hopelessness and eternal death. However, because Jesus was indeed raised from the dead, we not only have hope (confidence), but we have life! **A Wonderful Life!** Our eternal future is secure! This is the greatest gift we have ever received.

SERVING TODAY (December 25, 2022)

Read:	C. Baker
Wait On Table:	J. Walker
Serve:	M. Reed, J. Demonbreun
Prayer:	E. Walker

PRAYER LIST

- **Keith Walker** is suffering with some heart issues
- **Diane Singleton** has requested prayers
- **Burt & Peggy Wilkerson** are recuperating at home
- **Catherine Pennington** will have hernia surgery January 17th
- **Camille Brosky**, a family friend of the Agees, is in rehab recovering from a stroke
- **Judy Cook** is doing well at home
- Elizabeth’s grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer
- **Maria Hunter Harrington** has breast cancer
- **Forshia Pennington** has cancer.
- **Donna Rawls Head** is in hospice care
- Continue to pray for: **Chelsea Roaden**, those in **Ukraine**; the **Brown** family, **Kim Waller**, **Kristine Garrett**, the **Krantz** family, **John Hayes**, **Nick Phifer**, **Isabel Johnson**, and **Jim Sims**