

The Gift of a New Life

Part two of the series, "Wrapped in Love"

Sunday, December 11, 2022 | Pastor Russell Tolentino

See John 11:38-44 NIV

The gift of new life always provides HOPE.

"Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹'Take away the stone,' he said. 'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.' ⁴⁰Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'" (v. 38-40)

The gift of new life reveals to us God's GRACE.

"So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'" (v. 41-42)

The gift of new life gives us new PURPOSE.

"When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'" (v. 43-44)

"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!**

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:14-21 NIV)

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