# You Cannot Lose in the End by John Piper

"You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can." (Matthew 27:65)

When Jesus was dead and buried, with a big stone rolled against the tomb, the Pharisees came to Pilate and asked for permission to seal the stone and guard the tomb. They gave it their best shot — in vain.

It was hopeless then, it is hopeless today, and it will always be hopeless. Try as they may, people can't keep Jesus down. They can't keep him buried.

It's not hard to figure out: He can break out because he wasn't forced in. He let himself be libeled and harassed and blackballed and scorned and shoved around and killed.

"I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again." (John 10:17–18)

No one can keep him down because no one ever knocked him down. He lay down when he was ready.

**Events** 

When it looks like he is buried for

4/18 Youth Prayer 7:15 PM
4/21 Ladies Missionary
Society 9 AM
Beverly speaking
4/25 Fletcher Maynard
with Bridges International
7:15 PM

good, Jesus is doing something awesome in the dark. "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how" (Mark 4:26–27).

The world thinks Jesus is done for — out of the way — but Jesus is at work in the dark places. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (John 12:24). He let himself be buried — "no one takes [my life] from me" — and he will come out in power when and where he pleases — "I have authority to take it up again."

"God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it" (Acts 2:24). Jesus has his priesthood today "by the power of an indestructible life" (Hebrews 7:16).

For twenty centuries, the world has given it their best shot — in vain. They can't bury him. They can't hold him in. They can't silence him or limit him. Jesus is alive and utterly free to go and come wherever he pleases. Trust him and go with him, no matter what. You cannot lose in the end.

Give

Upcoming Events





# **Pastors**

Gary Hendrix Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton Michael Lopes

# Service Times

- -Sunday School 9:30 am
- -Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
- -Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
- -Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

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April 15, 2018

# Whoever believes has Eternal Life

Traducción simultanea al español disponible en servicios de AM y PM

# Morning Worship

Call to Worship Pastor Stephen Byrd

Opening Hymn Glorify Thy Name

Father, we love You, we worship and adore You, glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Jesus, we love you, we worship and adore You, glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name in all the earth.

Spirit, we love You, we worship and adore You, glorify Thy name in all the earth. Glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name, glorify Thy name in all the earth.

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### Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

(repeat with few singing "descant")

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Scripture Reading John 5:1-18, page 890

**Pastoral Prayer** 

Offertory #438 Jesus, I Live to Thee

Preparatory Stronger

1. There is love that come for us; humbled to a sinners cross. You broke my shame and sinfulness. You rose again victorious.

2. Faithfulness none can deny, through the storm and through the fire.

There is truth that sets me free: Jesus Christ who lives in me.

(Chorus)

You are stronger, You are stronger. Sin is broken, You have saved me. It is written, Christ is risen. Jesus, You are Lord of all.

3. No beginning and no end; You're my hope and my defense. You came to seek and save the lost. You paid it all upon the cross.

# (Chorus)

# (Bridge)

So let Your name be lifted higher, be lifted higher, be lifted higher. So let Your name be lifted higher, be lifted higher, be lifted higher.

### (Chorus 2x)

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Sermon Pastor Gary Hendrix

# **Evening Worship**

Call to Worship Pastor Charles Fortner

Opening Hymn #127 Let Us Love and Sing

Scripture Reading Ron Pastoral Prayer

Romans 7:18-8:17, page 943

Offertory Create in Me

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and renew a right spirit within me. **(repeat)** 

Text: Psalm 51: 10-12 Music: Keith Green

### Preparatory Look to the Cross

Pressed down with cares and burdens bleak,

look to the cross: What do you see?

He bears your pain, my sister see: The Lamb of God who died for thee.

# (Chorus) Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

### Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

On all sides fear, dark doubt, despair: I ook to the cross: Your Savior there!

He bleeds for you, my brother see: The Lamb of God who died for thee.

### (Chorus)

When trials consume our dusty frames, I ook to the cross and bless His name!

His body torn to set us free: The Lamb of God who died for thee.

### (Chorus)

Our sins so great! Our hearts untrue! Look to the cross for Grace anew:

Jesus becomes our Mercy Seat: He died for you, He died for me! (Chorus)

Text: Verses, Courtney Dunkerton Chorus: Charles Wesley Music: Courtney Dunkerton Used by Permission

Sermon Nick Gaines