

Clarifying from Good Friday

God made

him **[Jesus]**

who had no **sin**

to be **sin**

for us,

so that in him **[Jesus]**

we might become the **righteousness** of **God**. 2 Corinthians 5:21

“It seems Paul’s intent to say more than that Christ was made a sin-offering and yet less than that Christ became a sinner.”

Christ totally identified with the sin of humanity, “yet He did so without ever having a sinful attitude or doing a sinful act.”

*Professor Emeritus Murray Harris
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

Writing the Story of a Life

Beginning

- Birth
 - What can you change about your birth?

Middle

- Living
 - There are many “chapters”
 - What would you call your current chapter?
 - What limits what you can write in your story?

End

- Death
 - What can you change about your death?

“Show me, Lord, my life’s end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.
You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you.

Everyone is but a breath,
even those who seem secure.”

Psalm 39:4-5

Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;
the **heavens will vanish** like smoke,
the **earth will wear out** like a garment
and **its inhabitants die like flies.**

Isaiah 51:6

Writing the Story of a Life

Beginning

- Birth Everything and everyone has a beginning, a middle, and an end

Middle

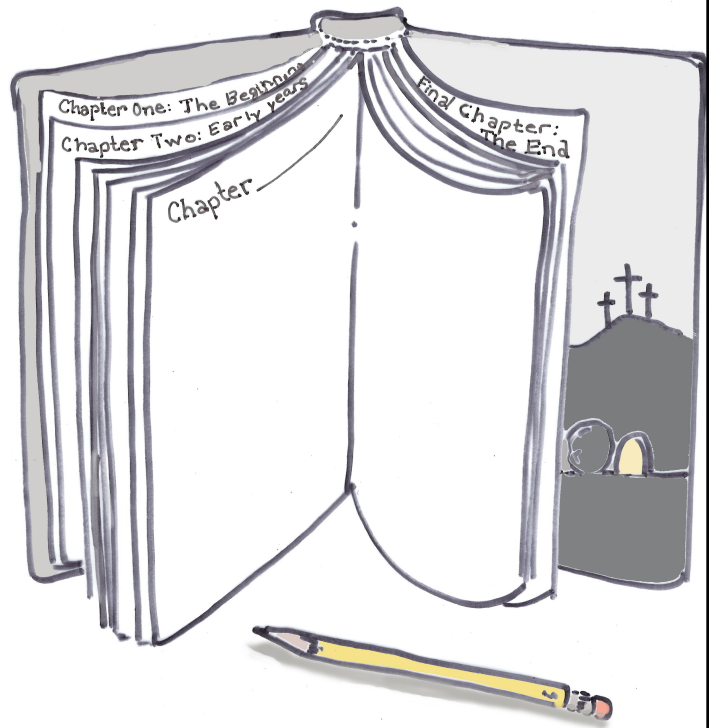
- Living How should the middle be different given the certainty of having an end?
How might the middle change if you knew the date and circumstances of your death?

End

- Death Where is God in the story of your life?

God's Signature Romans 1:1-7

Chinese: page 1821
 Spanish: page 1432
 Brown: page 1126
 Green: page _



Romans is a Letter

Formal letter today

Dear [recipient]:
 尊敬的 [recipient]:
 Estimado [recipient]:
 I am writing... [body]
 Sincerely, [author]
 此致敬礼, [author]
 Cordialmente, [author]

Formal letter in 1st Century

[author],
Paul's additions...
 [recipient].
 Greetings...
 [body]

Romans 1:1-7

1: From Paul:

2-4: • servant of Christ Jesus (humility and honor)

5-6: • called by God to be an apostle (authority)

- set apart for the Gospel of God (purpose)

7:

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Romans 1:1-7

1: From Paul: servant, apostle, set apart

2-4: The Gospel:

5-6: • promised by God from ages past

- fulfillment is a person:

- Jesus (human)

- Christ (son of David)

7: • our Lord (Son-of-God-in-power)

- appointed **by His resurrection**

Romans 1:1-7

- 1: From Paul: servant, apostle, set apart
- 2-4: The Gospel: Jesus Christ our Lord by resurrection
- 5-6: Calling: grace and apostleship
- Obedience of faith:
 - To obey by trusting the Gospel
 - To trust by obeying the Gospel
- 7: • For His name among all nations
- Specifically in Rome

Romans 1:1-7

- 1: From Paul: servant, apostle, set apart
- 2-4: The Gospel: Jesus Christ our Lord by resurrection
- 5-6: Calling: grace and apostleship
- Obedience of faith
 - For His name among all nations
 - Specifically in Rome
- 7: To: those who are loved and called-to-be-holy in Rome
- Grace & Peace from God the Father and Son

The Big Idea

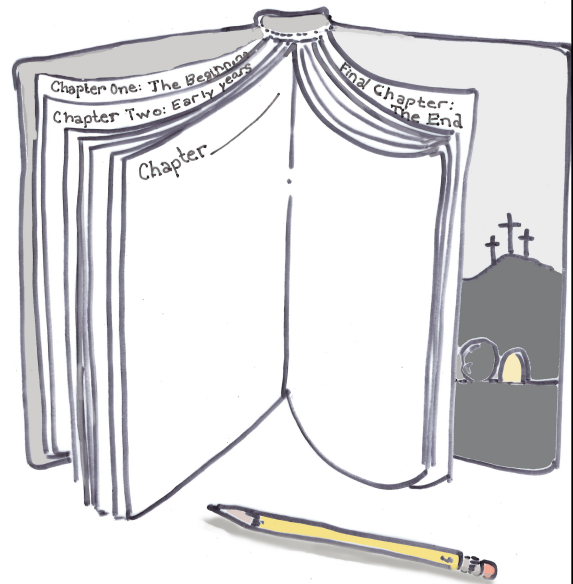
The resurrection of Jesus
(planned and promised by God in ages past)
proves the reality
of the only Son of God in Power
Jesus Christ our Lord

- “Proving” the resurrection (which is different from what the resurrection proves)
 - Proving the impossibility of a miracle is unreasonable
 - Only have to demonstrate that miraculous resurrection is a more reasonable explanation than the alternatives
- Miraculous resurrection is a more likely explanation of...
 - Multiple very early accounts of burial and empty tomb
 - Very unlikely elements if it were an invented story
 - For example: women witnesses, members of ruling council
 - Multiple accounts and hundreds of contemporary witnesses
 - Transformation of people not expecting resurrection

If the resurrection really happened, so what?

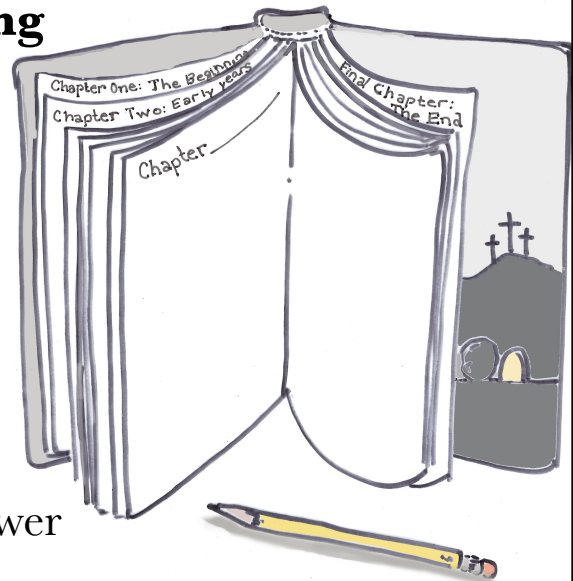
Someone with the power over death changes everything!

- What limits everything and everyone else in the universe is not a limit for Jesus Christ
- The resurrection proves that something completely different has come!



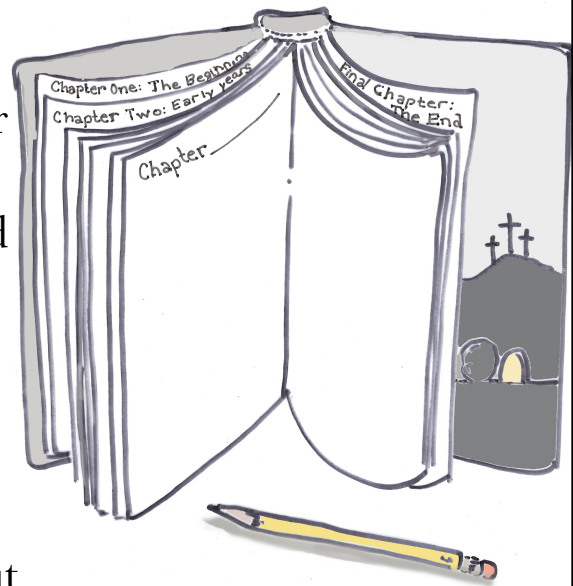
Jesus Christ is unlike everything else in the universe

- He is not merely 'a help to get through hard times'
 - He is Son-of-God-in-Power
- He is not merely 'one among many options'
 - He is the only Son-of-God-in-Power



I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:18-21



Application

- **Certain future hope at the last page of life**
 - Salvation & life beyond the last page: joy-filled, ever growing (opposite of entropy) with God forever
 - Must fundamentally change how we write the rest of our story

Application

- **Certain future hope at the last page of life**
- **Transformed existence before the last page**
 - True and authoritative grace and peace in life
(status followed by experience) to those who are called
 - The power over death itself will be alive and present on every page of your life

Application

- **Certain future hope at the last page of life**
- **Transformed existence before the last page**
- **Evangelism: “Good News telling”**
 - Jesus Christ sends us to call people of all nations to the obedience of faith in Him, which is true life
 - Tell THE story: Jesus’ resurrection
 - Tell YOUR story: the power of the resurrection in your life

The Big Idea

The resurrection of Jesus
(planned and promised by God in ages past)

proves the reality
of the only Son of God in Power

Jesus Christ our Lord

**He wants to be in every page of our story
And He wants us to be a part of His story after our last page!**