

April 5, 2016

Dear Grace Church Family and Friends,

Just a few days ago, I was enjoying my post-Easter vacation, hitting golf balls and lying by the pool. My biggest decisions were what club to hit and which flavor daiquiri to order, and I have to say: it was nice.

Now that I am back in the office, I still have that relaxed, not-a-care-in-the-world feeling, but I am afraid it won't last. Later this week, as the work starts to mount up, I will be back in the real world, and my carefree attitude will be completely out the window.

Unfortunately, the same thing often happens after Easter.

We come to church on Easter Sunday and experience all the joy, with the beautiful flowers and incredible music. Easter Sunday feels different, and we know it. By raising Jesus from the dead, God has done something beyond our wildest imaginations. No matter who we are, or what we have done, nothing will ever again separate us from the love of God, and we sense that deep in our hearts and deep in our souls.

But then, we go back to work, back to our usual routine, running around with too much on our plate, and before we know it, we lose that Easter feeling. We no longer smell the flowers. We stop singing Jesus Christ is risen today, and the joy seems to dissipate. It is almost as if the resurrection only lasted one day.

As we all know, though, the resurrection is forever. On that first Easter Sunday, God changed the world for all time, and therefore, the joy we feel on Easter should carry over and never end. Easter should change us, and not just for one day, or two, but for the rest of our lives. We are all precious in the eyes of God, worthy of God's love and redemption, and we should see ourselves, our family and friends, neighbors and strangers, and the world around us, in that same light. As it says in the Bible:

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.*

Over the next several weeks, I hope you will hold on to that Easter feeling. Remember the flowers, the music. Remember the joy, and cherish it in your heart.

Happy Easter!

*Andrew*