**John 3:14-17 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**

Today is the day that we mark Jesus’ Resurrection. Our back is to the empty tomb and our face is set on the Risen Savior! We’re not weeping. We’re rejoicing. We’re not fearful. We’re fearless. We’re not guilty. We’re forgiven. All because of the Passion of Jesus to complete the work set before Him – that we know the Gospel and are called to share.

Many Christian’s today have Passion for Jesus, but never have the Passion of Jesus. They have the Passion for Jesus so that they are saved, but they never have the Passion of Jesus to see that others are saved. They have a Passion that they have eternal life but never have the Passion of Jesus that all should have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He didn’t send His son to condemn, but to save. But people must first believe. Romans 10:14 says - *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?* How will they hear without literally “a public crier” of the Gospel? That’s all of us when we believe. I ask you today… I have no doubt everyone here has a Passion **for** Christ, but do we have the Passion **of** Christ? If we don’t, we need to find it. What is His Passion? Getting the Gospel to Lost People. How are we doing?

Verse 14 says *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up.* Jesus was saying – I must be crucified and lifted up to repel the serpent of sin. Over in Numbers, we find the children of Israel were murmuring against God and Moses. God heard them and sent serpents into the camp and people started to die. They cried out for salvation to the God they were murmuring against! In Numbers 21:8, it says *Then the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”* Moses made it, lifted it, but the people had to look upon it. And so it was with Jesus and still is… we’re all sinners suffering from the bite of the serpent. But, when we gaze upon Jesus, trust Him, believe in His saving Grace, confess our need, we shall live. That is the Gospel. That is Christ’s Passion.

Verse 15 & 16 - *that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*This is what the Virgin Birth, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Ascension is all about. This is the Passion of Christ. He came from Heaven, becoming the Living Word of God, dwelling among us, so that we might be saved from sin, by believing on Him. He didn’t have a passion for houses, or money, or fine things in life. His Passion was for the Whosoever’s of this world… the hopeless, the people that society dismissed, those who wouldn’t lift their eyes as they begged for forgiveness. He didn’t come to heal the self-righteous, but the humble. And when we believe and when we are saved by Him… our hearts must become Passionate for Him and we must share the Passion of Him. Ephesians 5:1-2 says *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.* How can we be imitators without being not only passionate for Him, but being passionate like Him? Over and over again, Jesus says – if you love Me… if you are passionate for Me… keep My commandments. John 13:34 *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.* The Passion of Christ is that we love one another and the ultimate act of love is to introduce someone dying from the snakebite to the antidote Who emerged from the Tomb.

Verse 17 *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.* God did not send His Son to take life, but to give life and give it more abundantly. God did not save us to silence, but saved us to proclaim! How will they know if no one tells them? When we are in Jesus, we must have the same Passion as Jesus. We must share the Passion that was strong enough to have God send His only Son. Passion for People and their eternal Salvation. 1 John 4:20 says *If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?* There is no greater hate than to hide the Truth of Eternal Life

Today, as we go from this place. As we settle into comfortable homes, around comfortable tables, with comfortable people, having comfortable conversations, take a few moments, before this day passes for yet another year to ask – I know I have a Passion for Christ, but do I share in the Passion of Christ? No one will hear the answer, but you and God… and God already knows. May we all grow in the Passion of Christ and become public criers of the Gospel for all to hear. **Altar Call**