



Message: **Staying Sighted In** | April 19, 2026 | Speaker: **Pastor Eddie Eddy**

1 Peter 1:17–23 (NIV) *17 Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.*

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

21 Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

22 Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.

23 For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

L: this is the word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks be to God.

Staying Sighted In

Two weeks ago... we stood in the JOY of Easter morning.

We celebrated the empty tomb.

We proclaimed, "HE IS RISEN!"

PAUSE

But now... we're two weeks Past that. And life... has settled back into its routine.

So the question is: **NOW WHAT?**

Because Back Roads...Easter was NEVER meant to be the finish line...It was always meant to be the STARTING POINT.

In our passage this morning...Peter looks at the church and says: "**Be holy.**"

It's not a suggestion...it's not a seasonal thing...its supposed to be a way of life.

SP

Now let's bring this a little closer to home...Because out here on the back roads...we understand something about HABITS. We all know that you don't just wake up one morning and become a good hunter. You don't just grab a rod and suddenly become a great fisherman.

There are PATTERNS. There are INSTINCTS. There are HABITS you build over time. And here's the truth...BAD habits build just as easily...maybe even easier than the GOOD ones do.

And once they are ingrained in our psyche...old habits...they die hard.

PAUSE

You can celebrate Easter on Sunday...and still lose your patience on your way to work on Monday. For some of us...we may not make it out of the church parking lot today before that bad habit rears its ugly head.

You can sing praise in church.....and still carry bitterness toward someone in the community. You can sit in a deer stand for hours in silence...but struggle to sit with God for five minutes.

That's why Peter says: "Prepare your minds for ACTION." Because faith doesn't just HAPPEN. You don't DRIFT into holiness...Truth be told...You drift AWAY from it.

SP

Let me say something clearly...Because I believe this with everything I've got: God does NOT quantify sin. To God...
SIN IS SIN.

We as people whose flesh is destined to sin... like to rank it. we like to say things like: "Well... at least I'm not doing THAT." Or "It's just a LITTLE thing."

But let me ask you this...If you're out fishing on the Wisconsin River and the big females are biting like crazy...and you notice your fishing line has just a SMALL nick in it...Do you ignore it?

No. Because you know...When that trophy one hits...that line is going to SNAP. It doesn't matter if the flaw was small...It still COSTS you the catch.

Sin works the same way.

SP

Or think about hunting...I like to sight in my own rifles. A few years back I bought my first thermal scope to hunt pigs in Oklahoma. I didn't have time to sight it in before I left to hunt so I let my son take it and sight it in.

I can tell you this. When I sight in my rifle...I can strike a match with it. I want to know that when the time comes...the gun is not what I want to blame for a bad outcome. I do my best to be as ethical of a hunter as I can be.

When I got there to hunt, I asked my son if the gun was all sighted in and he told me it was close enough. I should have known. But I went out and hunted anyway. Sure enough...here comes Hogzilla. Biggest pig I have ever seen. But because I had some doubt about the scope...I changed my hunting strategy and...even though I hit the pig...we never recovered it. I should have sighted the gun in myself, and I could have removed any doubt.

The hard truth is...If your scope is just a LITTLE off...just a fraction...You're going to miss. Doesn't matter how steady you are...doesn't matter how patient you've been. That SMALL misalignment changes EVERYTHING.

That's what sin does in our lives and our relationship with God. It throws us OFF. And not just the big things...ALL of it.

SP

But here's the GOOD NEWS...Peter reminds us: "You were NOT redeemed with silver or gold.....but with the PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST."

That means something for us, Back Roads... It means God didn't just SAVE you...He is RE-SIGHTING you.

(PAUSE)

Think about that. When a scope is off...you don't throw the rifle away...You ADJUST it. You bring it back into ALIGNMENT.

That's what Jesus is doing in your life.

Through His blood...

Through His grace...

Through His Spirit...

He is bringing you back into alignment with the Father.

SP

Peter mentions that we are living as "foreigners." I think his point is this...Because we are saved through Jesus' blood and the empty tomb...we are different than the others living around us. We have a different view of the world we interact with and the future that's promised to us. that makes us foreigners in this land because we see things and experience things as a someone who don't fit the mold anymore. Maybe we could look at it like this...

We're still in the same woods...but we don't HUNT the same way anymore. We focus on a different trophy.

We're still casting lines into the same river...but we don't FISH the same way anymore. We fish to release people from sin.

We're still living in the same world.....but we are no longer AIMING at the same things.

(PAUSE)

Because when your life is aligned with Christ...your target changes. Your priorities change. Your purpose changes.

And hear this Church...You were NEVER meant to do this alone.

Because even the best hunters...still learn from someone. Even the best fishermen...still watch, still listen, still grow.

And when something is keeping you from hitting your mark...sometimes you need someone else to say: "Hey... you're a little off."
"Let's get you dialed back in."

That's the CHURCH.

That's BACK ROADS.

We help each other stay Sighted in.

SP

So here we are... Two weeks after Easter. The tomb is STILL empty. Jesus is STILL risen. The victory is STILL real.

But now comes the question...Are you aligned?

(PAUSE)

Or are there areas in your life...just a little off? Because we already said it...God doesn't quantify sin. To Him... sin is sin.

And even a small misalignment...can cause you to miss what God is calling you to.

Friends...Old habits die hard...But they **DO** die...when we surrender them to Christ. When we let Him adjust us...refine us...realign us.

And when that happens...Now you're walking steady. Now you're aiming true. Now you're living holy. And you don't walk that path alone. You walk it hand in hand...With God...And with each other.

And together...we stay sighted in.

To God be the Glory. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Church, as we come to this time of offering, I want to connect it to what we just heard.

Peter reminds us in Scripture that we were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold—but with the precious blood of Christ .

That means everything we have...everything we hold...everything we give...comes from a life that has already been bought and paid for.

Giving is about alignment.

It's about making sure our hearts are still sighted in on what matters most.

Because when we give, we are saying:

“God, my trust is in You.”

“God, my priorities are Yours.”

“God, my life is aimed at Your Kingdom.”

So as we give today—whether here in person or through the other ways available—let's give as people who have been realigned by grace...as people who know the value of what Christ has done...and as people who are committed to staying sighted in.

Ushers, if you would collect the offering please. If you have your connection cards, please place them in the basket as well.

Closing Prayer with Dedication

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word today...

for reminding us that we have been redeemed not by earthly things, but by the precious blood of Jesus.

Lord, keep our hearts aligned with You. Where we are off...finetune us.

And now, as we bring our gifts before You, we offer them as an act of trust and obedience. Take these tithes and offerings... use them for Your Kingdom...and use us as instruments of Your grace in this world.

We give You all the glory.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Benediction:

As you leave this place today...

Remember—the tomb is still empty.

The victory is still real. And your life has been bought with a price.

So go out into the world...stay aligned with Christ...

walk in His grace...and keep your life sighted in on what matters most.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen.