



SAFE HARBOR

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What Really Matters

April brings all members of the body of Christ into the most important moment of the ages, the Resurrection of Christ. The Apostle Paul spells out the implications of the Resurrection in 1Cor. 15: 12-22. This is the essential event which brings a surety to our salvation.

There are those who have denied the Resurrection throughout history. There are fables that would explain away the miracle of the Resurrection. Those who deny the Resurrection are confronted with the new lives that through faith have come to be born again and restored into a right relation with God. It is the Resurrection of Jesus that makes the new birth possible.

In essence the Resurrection allows the “new birth” to occur. With the symbolic of the old nature a person then may be raised up into a right relationship with God. This enables one to live as God would have them to live within the will of God. The separation that sin brought into the world becomes atoned for by the sacrifice of Calvary and its stains are washed by the shed blood of Christ.

The Church seems to have forgotten the significance of the Resurrection. While putting forth theologies, politics, a humanistic legalism and the criticism of others, the Church has removed the Resurrection from the center of its message and in doing so has removed the Gospel of Grace to become just another philosophy. Indeed the placement of earthly concerns at the center of the Church’s message has reduced it to being a sideshow. As a sideshow the Church seeks only wealth and power without the Divine Guidance to move the world towards the Kingdom of God.

The road to revival in the Church starts with the Resurrection. It is the pathway to the holiness that God requires for Christian living as the Resurrection brings new life. This new life is a reviving of the image of God within a person. Rituals, vows, promises, rules and

expectations cannot of themselves bring the restoration that God requires. Rather these things are secondary byproducts of the restoration of faith and relationship with God. It is the personal righting of the spirit of a person with the Spirit of God.

So we celebrate Easter the day of the Resurrection. Do we understand the consequences of this most important day in the Christian calendar? As Paul writes we are buried in Christ and raised to new life. The celebration of Easter is the celebration of the new life which comes from the Resurrected Christ.

The Resurrected life is continually seeking to be in tune with a life that is pleasing to God. It is a life that focuses on one aim, to be in the Father's will at all times. This life is the life in which the Spirit brings the presence of the Living Christ into our inner most being. We, as believers, are expected to move up to this higher level of faith.

Jesus told the parable of the house that was swept clean but never filled. The end result was that the original demon returned and brought other demons with him. If someone comes to Christ and never seeks the filling of the Holy Spirit the end result is worse than the original condition. For in this state we may never realize our "lostness" which keeps one from repenting and seeking forgiveness while being restored on the road to salvation.

Claim the Resurrection and let the Risen Savior restore you to the glory of the image of God in which you were created.

Reflections

Have you ever been challenged because of your faith? And how do you reply?

Apologetics is the branch of theology that deals with responding to the question of why you believe. In it are the many philosophical arguments that are offered as proof of the validity of Christianity. For the core of believers there can be only one response and that is the simple telling of what Christ has done in my life. This is called testimony.

What is the path of the blameless?

Walk in the Law of the Lord
Keep his decrees
Seek God with your whole heart
Do no evil (Psalm 119: 1-3)

Does this sound unrealistic? It isn't for Christ has been true to His promise of another comforter, the presence of the Holy Spirit. *When the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (Jn 16:12-15)*

Words of Promise

Then the angel showed me the river of water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed shall be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, his servants will worship him; and they shall see his face, and his name shall be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they shall reign forever and ever. Rev 22:1-5

May these words be a reality and comfort to each one.

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