

The Resurrection

We are resurrection people. Some want to put Jesus in a grave, but he defies even death. Some want to make him a smart rabbi, but he is much more than that. Others try to make him an idea or even an ideal, but that stops short of what Easter is.

Easter is about resurrection, plain and simple. Yes, Jesus died for our sins. Yes we know he is Savior. But if he had not risen from the dead, we would be like many other faiths. His resurrection seals the deal, puts God's exclamation point at the end of the sentence, and gives us hope that life is indeed forever.

Clarence Hall agrees. "If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!

Not just truth, but anything Jesus promises. It will happen, guaranteed, because of God's power to resurrect. There is nothing that can separate us from God.

Have you ever thought about how Christianity differs from other religions? In college, they teach it along with others as if they are equal. Many get taken in by that academic look at faith.

But the resurrection changes all that. No other faith goes that far. An unknown author writes the truth unknown by many that "Christianity begins where religion ends - with the resurrection."

We are the only resurrection people. We are promised that same resurrection in time. But we are also resurrected to take a new look at this world.

"Jesus' resurrection," writes N.T. Wright, "is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about."

We are new creatures in Christ, like the caterpillar becomes the butterfly, to see the will of God done on this earth. We are called to feed the hungry, to tell others about Jesus, and fill churches with people who live the resurrection principle.

The resurrection impacts our past, present, and future. God's plan before we were born includes us in the bringing of new life in this earth, and promises that

our eternity is secure. It makes ordinary things extraordinary. It gives new life everywhere all the time.

“There is a fragrance in the air, a certain passage of a song, an old photograph falling out from the pages of a book, the sound of somebody's voice in the hall that makes your heart leap and fills your eyes with tears. Who can say when or how it will be that something easters up out of the dimness to remind us of a time before we were born and after we will die?”~ Frederick Buechner

Jesus raised Lazarus and others from the dead during his earthly ministry. His disciples did not know it then, but we know it now, that they were examples of is power as God to do things that are not possible by mere humans.

He can also resurrect our faith which has become stale or dead. He can make a home or church come alive again. Just as the spring reminds us of heaven with new green grass and a full spectrum of flora and fauna, the resurrection calls us to see things new, vital, and full of life.

“The gifts of the Master,” Steven James exhorts, “are these: freedom, life, hope, new direction, transformation, and intimacy with God. If the cross was the end of the story, we would have no hope. But the cross isn't the end. Jesus didn't escape from death; he conquered it and opened the way to heaven for all who will dare to believe. The truth of this moment, if we let it sweep over us, is stunning. It means Jesus really is who he claimed to be, we are really as lost as he said we are, and he really is the only way for us to intimately and spiritually connect with God again.”

The resurrection indeed reframes what we once thought. It gives us more options, more possibilities, and reminds us that the cross, erected to stamp out Jesus and his followers, did exactly the opposite. The cross changed history. The resurrection does even more.

“His crucifixion is the key; His resurrection is the door... it is only by his death that we have the mandate to enter into the gates of eternal life. His doors are open always. Christ is king!” ~Israelmore Ayivor

So let the resurrection make for you, dear reader, a new heart, a new life this Easter and beyond. It takes away limits so that any things is possible. It erases

small ways of thinking and makes possible thoughts we could never think before. It makes the Judas trees, tulips, and daffodils which break forth at the first hint of spring pale in comparison to the plans God has.

Be resurrected at this very moment. God can do it, even with you and me.!