

He Is Risen

Luke 24:1- Now on the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain *other women* with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. ² But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. ⁵ Then, as they were afraid and bowed *their* faces to the earth, they said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

⁶ He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.’”

⁸ And they remembered His words. He is risen! These three words rank towards the top of the greatest words ever spoken. Because He (Jesus Christ, our Lord) lives we live.

Christ arose from the dead, as He said He would, after three days in the grave. His resurrection from the dead is the Hope of our faith. Because *He lives* we are free from the death we should have suffered because of our sins.

In our song book there is a song titled– *He Lives*. The song starts out, “I serve a risen Savior, He’s in the world today.” That is something that should bring great comfort to us. It should make us very happy. We should want to serve and worship the One who loves us so much that He was willing to abandon the glories of Heaven and come down to this earth and sacrifice His life for ours. The third verse of the song describes how we should react to serving a risen Savior- “Rejoice, Rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!” And why should we do that? Because He is, as the song continues to say, “The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find None other is so loving, so good and kind.”

Serving our God is not a thing of drudgery; it is a joyous act of obedience to Him who has done everything for us. Psalm 149:5 says

“let the saints be joyful in glory; Let them sing aloud on their beds. ⁶ Let the high praises be in their mouth.”

So how do we serve God? We should joyfully live in the way His words guide us. God loves us and he wants us to love Him and each other. God didn’t just create you and me; He created all things and all men.

We know that some men chose not to serve their God. They live in ways that God does not approve of. However that should not deter us from treating them as God’s creation and fellow humans. We may not continue in contact with those living in ways God wouldn’t approve of, but when we do have contact with them we should not be prone to hatred towards them.

Actions may be hated, people should not be.

The Bible, God’s words tell us that to be acceptable to Him we must hear His words and accept them. We must repent of our sins. That is we must ask for forgiveness of our sins and then strive to not commit them again. We must also be baptized for the remission, or forgiveness of our sins. Then we must strive to our life in the way consistent with being a child of God. The word repent used up above describes more than a simple act of asking. It describes a decision, a willingness to change, to move away from sin. It involves a conscientious effort to remove what is impure in our life and to live in a way that is pleasing to God.

The Bible tells us what God desires of us. God desires that we love and worship Him. In the Bible God tells us how He desires to be worshipped. In the Old Testament there is described for us many dreadful consequences that fell on those who were unwilling to worship God in the manner He desires. Why do so many in today’s world not take heed to God’s word and worship Him in way inconsistent with His will? That is a question I have no answer for, however that is something they will some day have to answer to God for.

Today many people will be offering worship to God in a manner inconsistent with God's written word in the Bible. They will be gathering together in huge numbers to worship God and celebrate His resurrection. Many that seldom attend worship services will be attending these services, because they believe this is a mandatory day to gather and worship God. Many will gather because of the splendor and pageantry of the service put on for this special day for them. Yet, in the bible we only find the word Easter used one time in the King James Version as a misinterpretation of the word Passover. In the Bible Jesus doesn't tell us about any special Holy days to celebrate His last days on this earth, or to have special celebration days for His death, burial, and resurrection. What we do find in the bible is Jesus telling us to remember Him in a special memorial service each Lord's day as we gather together. We call that memorial service the Lord's Supper.

I Corinthians 11:23- For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the *same* night in which He was betrayed took bread; ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke *it* and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." ²⁵ In the same manner *He* also *took* the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me"

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

This Lord's Day we are gathered together once again to worship God in the way He has told us He wants to be worshiped. We are gathered together to remember Jesus, by partaking of His memorial feast. In this memorial feast we also remember His death and burial and we celebrate His resurrection.

He is risen! Hallelujah!

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