

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED

Reflecting on the Stunning Reality of the Resurrection

The Reality of the Resurrection

Jesus really rose from the dead! He is who he claimed to be, God's promised Messiah and our Savior. Like his disciples, believers today need not fear the trials of this world, but can joyfully commit their lives to His sovereign will.

Scripture Reading | Matthew 28:1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." ⁸ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Praise the Lord for the reality of the resurrection and the hope and purpose believers have in Christ.

The Reality of Fellowship with God

The reality of the resurrection means that believers are reconciled to God; that they are no longer His enemies, but His children with free access to Him. In fact, the Spirit of the Lord now dwells within believers and works to make them more like Christ. The children of God need not worry or give in when trials come; rather, they can trust their God and Savior who offers them hope in this life and in the life to come.

Scripture Reading | Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. ¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Praise the Lord for the joy of a restored relationship with Him. Ask Him to continue to make us more like Christ.

The Reality of Fellowship with Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Christ's substitutionary death and victorious resurrection restores the sinner's fellowship with the Father and with other sinners. Having received the love of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit, brothers and sisters in Christ are free to love one another for the glory of God.

Scripture Reading | 1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Pray that God would strengthen our unity in the Gospel.

The Reality of our Privilege to Share the Good News

While the reality of the resurrection gives believers hope, there is another reality that many are still dying without knowing Christ and they face an eternity separated from Him. What a privilege believers have to share the best news the world can ever hear.

Scripture Reading | 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,

he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God.

Pray that God would bring souls to Himself during through our witness.