

Pastors Thoughts of the Week

He Is Risen!

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Matthew 28:5-6

The grim recollections of the violent scenes of Gethsemane, Gabbatha, and Golgotha loomed in the hearts and minds of the disciples, What a dramatic reversal of emotions it must have been for those mourning disciples whose thoughts were suffused with the grisly recollections of the horrors of crucifixion. They were eye witnesses to the violent scene when with cruel hands their Lord was mercilessly flagellated, scornfully crowned with thorns, and brutally abused with the agonies of the cross. But to this dolorous picture we must add the final "G", namely the Garden-"John 19:41: *Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus*". It would be there that the holy women were greeted by the angelic salutation "He is Risen!". As Jesus predicted their "sorrow shall be turned into joy".

That most glad evangel fills the air again as we commence to celebrate God's greatest gift to mankind -The resurrection of Jesus Christ! All hail the Son of God who subdued the minions of darkness, both temporal and demonic, who thought they could "eat up His flesh" but instead stumbled and fell as Christ rose triumphantly to abolish death and bring immortality and life to light through this gospel. He is Risen! I am sure the unwelcome news echoed through the caverns of hell and signaled the defeat of all the miserable internees who even yet pine away in that dreadful inferno. It was equally unwelcome by those evil men that demanded His death when Pilate was willing to release Him. His blood would be upon them and their children by their own imprecation.

He is Risen! It was a glad anthem in the ears of the inhabitants of paradise that long awaited for the captain of their salvation to come and carry them captive into the presence of the God that they faithfully served without seeing. He is Risen! The rebel skeptic abhors the absolutism of this victory shout. Their fevered brains continue to denigrate the impeccable Savior as they oppose their own salvation inventing wicked machinations even denying the Lord that bought them. He is Risen! The deluded religionist hears this word but denies the power thereof and futilely labors on in a vain hope of pleasing God by meriting what God has declared can only be freely received.

He is Risen! Ah but to the true child of God, these are the words of a victory secured -a salvation from death, hell and the grave forever! All creation waited for these words and yet groans within, waiting for the final accomplishment as the "victor from the dark domain" returns in glory to subdue all of the curse beneath his nail-pierced feet. He is Risen! This bold assertion stands as a verbal Ebenezer reminding us that the work is finished and that the grand release lay before us. We must press towards the mark with renewed vigor and revived hearts until that day that our risen King calls us into His presence. So come and join in the celebration of history's greatest moment. Find yourself this Sunday swelling the chorus with your own grateful heart song. He is RISEN!!!

Have a blessed week,

Pastor

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Faith cometh by hearing: and hearing by the word of God Romans 10:17