



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 28:03:2012

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Special Study: Learning From Easter - 2

“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you” (Matthew 28:1-7).

We are living in times of such intense skepticism and unbelief that the supernatural and miraculous is easily reduced to the natural by the so called scientific explanations; and faith in God is sometimes considered an act of intellectual suicide. It is therefore not a surprise that some religious leaders cannot come to terms with physical bodily resurrection of Christ. In this piece we are concerned not with empty rhetoric but vital lessons from the resurrection of Christ for the benefit of those who believe.

We have already learnt from Easter the:

1. Necessity of bearing the cross to wear a crown
2. Principle of one with God being the winner

The resurrection of Christ also teaches us another valuable lesson on the reliability of the scriptures, the credibility of the claims of Christ, and the trustworthiness of God. Our motto should be “God said it, I believe it and that settles it”.

Remembering His claims, that He would rise from the dead on the third day, Jewish leaders obtained permission from their Roman authorities to secure the grave until the third day, so as to frustrate the plans of God. But on the third day, at the appointed time, the angel descended, rolled away the stone, and called forth. And up from the grave Jesus arose triumphantly and majestically. Death could not hold him; the grave could not keep him; and the soldiers, paralysed by fear, were powerless to prevent Him. Hallelujah, what a saviour! The angel sat on the grave stone (a symbol of victory, power, authority and disdain to the soldiers) and the Roman soldiers could not do him anything.

Realising their failure, they immediately cooked up a lie to cover up the reality; but even this lie could not stand the test of such overwhelming evidence. Paul contending for the faith within the lifetime of these very soldiers openly declared "For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely; for I am

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persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; **for this thing was not done in a corner**" (Acts 26:26)

If I may ask what does all these mean to you as a person? Is there any significance in this 21st century of this single event that took place about 2000 years ago? O yes I believe there is. I have tasted and proved the power of God. And I honestly believe that there are innumerable benefits to derive from the resurrection of Christ. Otherwise I would not waste my time and resources writing this.

We need to identify the real issues involved here. It goes far beyond the need for Historical exactness and religious bigotry - right into the fundamentals of life and the Christian faith. If Christ did not rise from the dead then the trustworthiness of God, the reliability of His word and promises as well as the credibility of the claims of Christ would have been totally shattered. And that could have destroyed the foundation of the Christian faith. That He is able to perform that which He promised gives me the faith to safely trust Him in all things and at all times irrespective of prevailing circumstances. Because Christ rose from the dead as He promised, I can confidently believe in all His claims, including that of His second coming whether I understand how they are going to be fulfilled or not. That the Roman soldiers could not prevent the resurrection nor arrest the resurrected Christ or prosecute the victorious angel implies that no enemy, satan, circumstances, etc can prevent the fulfillment of God's promises for my life.

May the resurrection story remind us of the fact that the things which are impossible with men are possible with God. And that despite the chaos and confusions that surround us today, God is still perfectly in control of everything; and can use even the very plots of the His enemies to further His course. If the soldiers were not at the grave they would not have been first eye witnesses of the resurrection and of the superiority of the power of God over all other powers. The very instruments that the devil musters against you, will become your stepping stone to success. The very Pharaoh who decreed the killing of Jewish males to prevent their deliverance, ended up bringing up Moses the very deliverer of the Jews. The very lies, deception and prison that were meant to incarcerate Joseph and ruin his prospects in life eventually became the very route to the throne and fulfillment of his dreams. God cannot be mocked. Human extremities are divine opportunities!

The God that raised up Jesus Christ is still alive and He is our God today. The resurrection power of God is also still at work today perfecting that which concerns the believer to the glory of God.

If the resurrected Christ lives in you then you have a hope and a future. God can change that impossible situation if only you will give Him the chance by faith.

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