

He Is Risen!

This morning, in Christian churches around the world, the proclamation is being made: "He is risen!" Despite the many doctrinal differences that separate Believers into many different denominations and churches, today we recognize the belief we have in common ... the fact that He is risen.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul argues for the importance of the resurrection. The fact that Christ died for our sins, that He was entombed, and that He has been roused the third day is, as Paul states, "*the first what also I accepted.*" Paul goes on to say that if Christ has not been roused, as some were contending:

1. Our heralding (preaching) is for naught (v 14)
2. Our faith is for naught (v 15)
3. We are false witnesses of God (v 15)
4. We are still in our sins (v 18)
5. Those who died in Christ have truly perished (v 19)
6. If our expectation is in this life only, we are forlorn (v19)

But the fact is, He is risen! Paul brings forth the various eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ in verses 5 through 8. If Christ had not risen, where is our expectation for the ages to come? If Christ had not risen, death would not have been defeated. If Christ had not risen, we remain in our sins, and this life is all that there is.

But He is risen! And today, believers around the world are remembering and celebrating and proclaiming this fact.

But is God being fully recognized for what His grace and love have accomplished thru the resurrection? The same Scriptures that reveal the fact of the resurrection, also reveal that thru Christ **ALL** will be saved. Not one soul will remain in death, or in the torments of hell, as many today are declaring.

For the young men and women who die before their eyes have been opened to the truth concerning Christ, salvation will come. Death and Satan will not permanently overcome them. The stubbornness of man cannot overcome the sovereign will of God. The hatred and contempt and rebellion that seems to run rampant in man cannot overcome the love and wisdom and power of God. The effects of the resurrection may be **on** the Believer today, but these effects are **for all**. In Romans 3:22 Paul writes that now is being manifest:

"a righteousness of God through Jesus Christ's faith, for all, and on all who are believing."

In 1 Timothy 4:10-11 we read that the living God is:

"the Saviour of all mankind, especially of believers."

Yes, **especially** of believers ... for **we** (believers) recognize in this lifetime what God has accomplished. But He is not the Saviour **exclusively** of believers. He is the Saviour of all mankind!

Yet despite the joyful proclamations being made in churches around the world today, the message being proclaimed is not pure joy. It is as if the church is shouting, "He is risen, but the benefits He provides through His death and resurrection are only for those of us who are wise enough to believe in this lifetime." How egotistical!

Some may argue, "This is not egotistical ... it is what God has said, and so I believe it!"

But this is **NOT** what God has said. This may be what most Bible teachers and preachers and scholars say today, because they have been raised and educated within a system that has, through the years, incorporated error into its teachings. If we are willing to set aside the traditions and teachings of man, and look directly to the Word of God, studying intently, we will see the truth that God will most definitely, at the end of the ages, save all of mankind!

In Old Testament times God chose Israel. He did not determine that only Israel would be saved in the ages to come, but His intent was to bless all nations and all people thru His chosen channel ... Israel.

Today God is using the church, the "ecclesia" (called-out-ones). He is not saying that only the church (believers) will be saved in the ages to come. His intent is to use the church to proclaim His truth, and to display His grace and wisdom and love to the world. But instead the church, like Israel, misunderstands and relays to the world the wrong message ... claiming that God's blessings are only for us.

In 1 Corinthians 15:22-28 Paul relates the true implications of what God has accomplished thru His Christ:

1. As in Adam all are dying, thus also in Christ shall all be vivified
2. But this vivifying (life) will come in stages ... first Christ, then those who are Christ's (believers), then the consummation (the remainder)
3. Christ will reign **until** all enemies are under His feet
4. The final enemy that will be abolished is death (leaving only life)
5. All will be subjected under Christ (every knee bowing--Philippians 2:9)
6. Christ then gives up the kingdom to God (having accomplished all that was asked of Him)
7. God becomes All in all

What a profound statement God becomes All in all (verse 28). All has come from God (1 Corinthians 8:6). All is through Him and for Him (Romans 11:36). But now, at the end of the ages, when the purpose of the eons has been accomplished ... God becomes All in all. How could He become such, if a single soul remains in rebellion or is not yet reconciled to Him?

As you celebrate the fact that He is risen, search the Scriptures and see the magnitude of what God has accomplished in this event. He is risen ... He is risen indeed!!!

- Bob Evely -