03/31/24

 The Resurrection

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die…..” John 11:25, 26

Early on that third morning when the women came to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus, they found it empty. This empty tomb did not suggest what the Pharisees did when they went in to Pilate after the crucifixion asking for soldiers to guard the tomb in case Jesus’ disciples came in the night to steal His body and deceive the people into thinking that “He is risen from the dead” as Jesus’ had said while He was yet alive (Matthew 27:62-66). What this empty tomb said then, and continues to speak now is that our Lord and Savior; Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God to bring to all believers eternal life. Paul exhorts in Ephesians 1:19, 20 that we are to seek to the know “what is the exceeding greatness of His (God’s) power….which He wrought (exerted) in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places....", taking away the sting of death, and the victory from the grave (1 Corinthians 15:55). The resurrection paid the price for our redemption, for according to divine justice, the bible declares that “the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:23). Death once reigned in the earth from Adam to Moses (Romans 5:14), but the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ satisfied the debt which would free us from the curse of the law, to live and reign eternally. The resurrection showed that God was satisfied with the sacrifice Jesus made as a propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2), and granted to all that will receive Him eternal life. It was when Jesus went into the depth of hell, preached the gospel, and conquered our captives; such as sin, the devil, and death, that we as believers were made free. The resurrection is a triumph over the power of sin, for sin leads to death, and the scripture in Romans 6:9 states “because we know that Christ, being once raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has power over Him.” It rendered us as more than conquerors because we as believers have entered into His death so that like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we as well who have been planted together in the likeness of His death, have been raised to a newness of life free from the dominion of sin. Therefore, we like Paul, should seek to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death (Philippians 3:10). The resurrection provided an escape from the snares of death. Death had a grip on us that could only be loosed by the power of the resurrection. Our life as believers lies in Christ’s blood and His resurrected life, whereby we have been forgiven and reconciled to God. The resurrection of Jesus Christ secured our justification according to Romans 4:24, which says, “Who (Jesus) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification.” His resurrection made us free by acquitting us, and making us innocent, because His resurrection brought Him out of the grave and placed Him at the right hand of the Father in heaven forever making intercession for us.

The resurrection is the triumphant and glorious victory for every believer. Jesus Christ died, was buried, and rose the third day according to scripture. And, He is coming again, not to carry any burden of sin, nor to deal with sin, but to bring to full salvation those who are eagerly, constantly, and patiently waiting for and expecting Him. The dead in Christ will be raised up, and those who remain and are alive at His coming will be changed and receive new, glorified bodies (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The resurrection is so very important to salvation because it shows that God accepted Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf, that God has the power to raise us from the dead, and guarantees that those who believe in Christ will not remain dead, but will be resurrected unto eternal life: “for God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” This is our blessed hope!