

We will live because Jesus lives; Wonderful assurance

There are people who put their hope, joy and confidence in their wealth and health live in a dream world. Some people are lazy while others are workaholics. We come across restless and dissatisfied people around us, at the same time, others live in affluence and disregard the life after death. Planning for retirement- preparing for life before death- is wise but neglecting the life after death is disastrous.

In the gospel of John Jesus used seven times the words "I am" to introduce who he was and to declare the purpose of his coming to the world. The fifth one is "I am the resurrection and the life." (Jn 11:25). We never find such a claim in the life of any religious, social or political leaders because they all are finite beings where Jesus is infinite. Several stories are reported in history for dead bodies are kept for days expecting a restoration. We trust in Jesus who is risen, the first fruit, then, those who belongs to him when he comes (1Cor 15:23).

The gospels contain abundant testimony to the resurrection of Christ. The book of Acts is a story of the apostles' proclamation of the resurrection of Christ. The epistles depend on the fact that Jesus is living, reigning savior who is now the exalted head of the church, who is to be trusted, worshiped and adored and will one day return in power and glory. The book of revelation repeatedly shows the risen Christ reigning in heaven and predicts his return to conquer his enemies.

Christ's resurrection ensures our regeneration (1Pet 1:3), our justification (Rom. 4:25) and a perfect resurrection bodies for us (2 Cor 4:14). Apart from above theological significance, we look at the ethical significance as well. Apostle Paul sees that resurrection has application to our obedience to God in this life. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain because Christ was raised from the dead (1Cor 15:58).

We are encouraged to focus on the heavenly reward as our goal. The struggles our life will be repaid at the resurrection (1 Cor 15:17-19, 32: Colo. 3:1-4).

We have the obligation to stop yielding to sin in our life. We are to consider ourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus by virtue of the resurrection of Christ and his resurrection power within us (Rom 6:11). Because Jesus lives, we also will live.

God bless you.

In His glorious service,
Rev. K. P. Mathew
(Senior Pastor, IPC Hebron, Los Angeles)

A Reminder

Ruth Regi

Every time the season of Easter is upon us, I have the constant memory of hunting for eggs. All I would think about a little girl was, how much candy I would be getting that Sunday. As a young girl, I thought about how much candy I can steal from another child. But, today as a child of God, I have come to see Philipians 3:10 come alive "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death".

We don't believe a God who is dead in a tomb, but a victorious King as it says in Colossians 2:15, "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it" Satan's defeat is our victory and we owe it to the one and only Jesus Christ.

It is the knowledge that the hope of resurrection isn't just for the future when I am physically dead and go to heaven; it's also for now and here, while I am living on earth and struggling in this fallen world and I usually tap on the shoulder of my best friend the holy spirit to guide me to remind this to me each day Romans 8.11: "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

As I was applying to colleges this year, I felt anxiety and disappointment that I would never be enough along with my peers. The word of god resonated in a song "Ain't no Grave" and helped me get through the application process. The song is about how there is no grave holding us back because Jesus already won the battle and rose from the dead. The words, "If you walked out of the grave, I'm walking too". This was powerful for me because through the resurrection power, we are able to walk away from anything holding us down. He has won everything for me so that I may follow Him and no grave whether it be fear, anxiety, or sickness will hold me down.

This Easter, let's remind ourselves that He conquered the grave so that we can conquer every challenge we face in our lives.