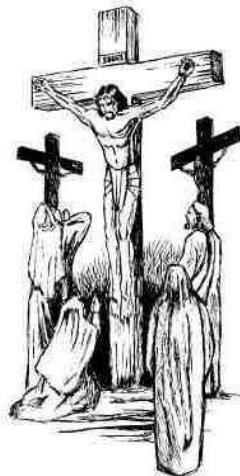


Christ is Risen!



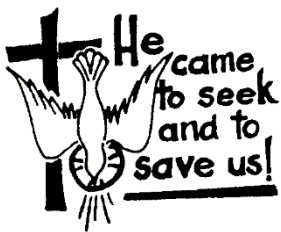
“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.” (John 3:14-17 NIV)

Jesus was “lifted up” on a criminal’s cross, tortured, and killed. This was all part of God’s plan to save the world. From this we need to understand two things.



1) Sin is serious. We may think that the little sinful stuff we do is not very important. Wrong. God takes every sin very seriously. *“The wages of sin is death,”* His word declares (Romans 6:23). The punishment that sin deserves is severe and terrible.

2) God really, really loves us. The Father and the Son did what had to be done so that we sinners can be saved. Romans 6:23 goes on to say, *“but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* As John 3:17 says, God sent His Son into the world *“to save the world through Him.”*



Jesus died. The Son of God, who became a human being, did what He came into the world to do. He died. Then He was buried ... for a little while.

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards

trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matthew 28:1-10 ESV)



Jesus died, but He did not stay dead.

We need to understand why this is so important. Let’s look at what Jesus accomplished by rising from death to life.

Several times before the event Jesus had told His disciples that He would be killed, and *“on the third day”* be raised to life. He had also publicly stated, *“I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.”* (John 10:17-18)

His resurrection demonstrated that He was not a liar or a dreamer; He knew what He was talking about. It also proved that He was who He said He was—the Son of God; the long-awaited Messiah.

The resurrection of Jesus formed the core of the early Christians’ preaching message, and established the basis for one of the most central doctrines of the Christian faith—the resurrection of the dead.

As [Peter and John] were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed

because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. (Acts 4:1-2)

Years later, the Apostle Paul wrote this: ... *if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ... For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* (1 Corinthians 15:17-20,22)

Actually, even though the Sadducees claimed there is no resurrection of the dead; the Hebrew Scriptures had long taught otherwise. Job had said, *"I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God,"* (Job 19:25-26) in Daniel it is written, ... *many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.* (Daniel 12:2) And in Isaiah there is this prophecy: *Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.* (Isaiah 26:19)

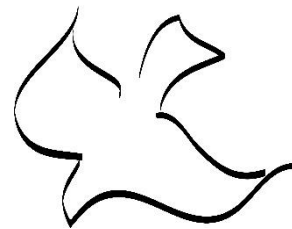
Before His death, Jesus had told His disciples, *"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."* (John 14:2-3)

His resurrection gave them (and us) confidence that they (and all of us who are saved) shall ultimately be with Him in Heaven. We don't know very much about Heaven; all we know, and all we really need to know, is that we shall be with Jesus and the Father. That's what Heaven is.

Yet another thing was accomplished as a result of the resurrection of Jesus. He said, *"These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ... it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.* (John 14:25-26;16:7)

Also, *"... you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."* (Acts 1:8)

Jesus' resurrection and ascension opened the way for the Holy Spirit to be "poured out" upon the church, giving the church the power to do "signs and wonders" that would move the pagan world to come to faith in Jesus Christ and His gospel. Signs and wonders (miracles) that give testimony to the truth of the Gospel are still happening today in places in the world where the Spirit's power is not hindered by widespread unbelief.



The Holy Spirit also gives power to transform our lives, to develop in believers the character of Jesus; which is equivalent to this: "... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23). And the Holy Spirit gives Christians the power to witness to the truth of the Gospel, and to live lives that are dedicated and obedient to God, and a blessing to others.

Because Christ has risen, we can be confident that He will be with us, and for us, to the end of our lives in this world, and we will be with Him in Eternity.

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

Brother Roland



Christ is Risen!

(Luke 24:13-52 ESV) That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us

the Scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father [the Holy Spirit] upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Send your Bible questions and address updates to me:

Brother Roland, P O Box 14, Fayetteville PA 17222

Holy Week

This puzzle includes words and phrases from the Bible accounts of the events during the week leading up to and including the glorious day of our Lord's Resurrection. Enjoy the puzzle, and rejoice with all Christians.

The Lord is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!!

Puzzle:

M A K E D I S C I P L E S F K T G G A F Q C W A E J E N F K
 U S A C A K N Q E D L S R M Y N V N K T K J V V W Q C C Q I
 O J L W P B E K T N F A X Q I E N E I V D Y I T B O N I P N
 P N G U Z H B L N Z O P S H C A K J N E U G H S N P A U G G
 P A S S O V E R A U J T S T S X O N G E R G E C M Y R R X O
 V Q Y Z C F K X N Q L A S O S R B F O O L V W R J P B U Z F
 Y F B R W B V M E H W A H Y Q U O G F D E A V I L B M N G I
 R M B Y J L E D V T K B R Y V L P R T I G B D E Y E E D Z S
 T S N R O H T F O N W O R C D A E P H P E N R G L M M P T R
 N G E W S Y Z O C V Q T X E D H E T E M U O U A A E E I Y A
 E M M M E M F X W H Y A D D T A O H J R B P S O N M R P B E
 T H P A P M L B E V M G K A W W Y H E E U U P I Y X Y U S L
 N S T Z H M U U N V R C F E T O G M W K R S W E N G B R G U
 A Y Y D S O D P P A S N M R H K A Q S E H C N A R B M L A P
 H R T S N U H D V N L I I B W I G L J T N O Z A S R P O V M
 P L O N E J O E E T I A M W I T H Y O U A L W A Y S O G X N
 M A M P W U C Y I H B P E O G K K E I L Y S G C H H L O I J
 U U B B T L B A R S S I R O N F C G J S Y Y C L N O E R M C
 I W X J O S N J D O R I G O T O A L L T H E W O R L D R R H
 R N F T M Q X P M U F I N V V E F S A E C M M Y U E N U O U
 T P H D B E R E H T O N S I E H T C D N O A T F H R C P J D
 Q E Q A V H D U C R E O E E F C M I Y C G O I N N I G I E U
 S Y C K B S C O O L B F Y K N S E E K R G E A P F T L E T Z
 P O N T I U S P I L A T E X O D I I E O E S L I H K L G D Y
 N O D B D H F L Y S T G R D R R N T D V B N E S J A A U Q S
 Y D O B Y M S I S I H T L F X G B Q I E J D E L F R S Q F A

Words:

*** Palm Sunday**

JERUSALEM
 YOUNG DONKEY
 TRIUMPHANT ENTRY
 PALM BRANCHES
 HOSANNA
 KING OF ISRAEL

*** Holy Thursday**

LAST SUPPER
 UPPER ROOM
 PASSOVER
 FOOT WASHING
 NEW COVENANT
 BREAD
 THIS IS MY BODY
 BROKEN FOR YOU

WINE
 REMEMBRANCE

*** Good Friday**

CROWN OF THORNS
 MOCKING
 PURPLE ROBE
 KING OF THE JEWS
 TWO THIEVES
 SIMON OF CYRENE
 PONTIUS PILATE
 HEROD
 CAIPHAS
 SANHEDRIN
 SCOURGED
 CRUCIFIED
 FATHER FORGIVE

IT IS FINISHED
 HE DIED

JOSEPHS NEW TOMB
 HEAVY STONE

*** Resurrection Sunday**

EMPTY TOMB
 FOLDED GRAVECLOTHES
 ANGELS
 MARY MAGDALENE
 HE IS NOT HERE
 HE IS RISEN
 GO TO ALL THE WORLD
 MAKE DISCIPLES
 I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS
 GLORY TO GOD