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JESUS The Resurrection AND THE LIFE

By Pastor Joe Campbell, Dallas Pentecostal Church, Texas



John begins chapter twelve with a declaration of time: Six days before the passover, Jesus comes to Bethany. (John 11) He had tarried prior to his coming knowing that his sick friend Lazarus would die. As he approaches Bethany, word of his arrival has reached into the little village. Martha, upon hearing he was coming, rose to go meet him. She finds him on the road side not too far from her home. Upon seeing our Lord, she says to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Jesus' reply to her is, "your brother shall rise again!" Martha is troubled, and seems confused at Jesus words, She answers, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus restates his opening remarks with greater declaration: "I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in me, though he were dead yet shall he live," Jesus is saying, "do you believe this, Martha? Martha is rattled, she's just been through the most heart wringing experience of her life, but she heard his question "do you believe?" She responds with, "Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah." Then she turns to go announce to her sister Mary that Jesus has come.

Mary arrives with the same, "if you had been here." Jesus groans in the spirit and is troubled and asks "Where have you laid him?" They bring him to the cave. Then, Jesus Wept. What? The Creator/Savior weeps? In these hours so close to his own death he weeps because those ever so close to him seem to have misguided and misaligned faith. Again he groans in himself and says "take away the stone." Martha speaks up, "Master, by this time he stinketh!" Jesus reply to her was, "Didn't I say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" Worry wart Martha by now is embarrassed, but gives that signal to roll away the stone. With the tomb open, Jesus begins his prayer (the stink is probably causing some to step back a bit).

His prayer is short, "I just want these folks to believe!" Then he says, "Lazarus, come forth!" (John 11:43-44). And he that was dead came forth! Good thing he said, "Lazarus," or the whole cemetery would have heard the voice of the Creator/Savior speaking forth a new creation to life. Because, he had already declared to Martha, I am the resurrection and the life. John 1:3 stated "all things were made by him!" So, Light and life are the off spring of divine command. He is declaring resurrection six days before the Passover! In the next few days, from the resurrection of Lazarus, to the supper at Simons house, to the road trip to Jerusalem, to the last supper in the upper room, and to the garden of Gethsemane, he spoke to those ever so close to him to prepare them for this coming magnanimous event. From, "Let not your hearts be troubled," to Thomas, "I am the way the truth and the life." It is as though he is saying, Please guys get who I am!

Then it happens, like a whirl wind, Jesus is arrested in the garden! He is taken to the Sanhedrin court, then to Pilate's judgment hall. He is beaten mercilessly, crucified so cruelly, and buried so abruptly. The events are happening so rapidly it is almost impossible to have understanding or faith. It was quite a shock on that Sunday morning, as the women come to the sepulchre bringing spices, to hear angels saying, "He is not here, for He is risen!" Peter and John came running, Peter runs inside the sepulchre,

Peter sees the clothes lying on the shelf and the facial napkin folded by itself. (Jewish custom, promise to return.) Not knowing or understanding the scripture that Jesus must rise again they leave and return to their home. (John 20:9-10) That same day, (Luke 24:13-35) two of his followers went to Emmaus, as they sadly spoke of the events of the last week, they hardly took notice of the stranger who had joined them. He asks, "What are you talking about and why are you so sad?" Their reply was "Are you a stranger that you don't know what has happened in Jerusalem these last few days?" He asks "What things?" So they reply "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth condemned to death and crucified, we trusted he was the Messiah, then today we heard his sepulchre was empty, accompanied with angels saying, "He Is Risen." The Lord replies, "You all need to believe, Didn't Christ need to suffer these things to enter into His glory?"

Then starting with Moses (Law) and the prophets (Law and Prophets bring us to Christ) he opened the scriptures concerning him. At Emmaus they pressed him to stay the evening. At the table he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. Their eyes were opened! They knew him, and he vanished out of their sight. Listen to them now, "Oh how he opened the scriptures, the law and the prophets came alive, my didn't our hearts burn within!! We must tell the others, He's Alive, He's Alive! He indeed is the Resurrection and the Life!".....Tell it everywhere, He's Alive!!

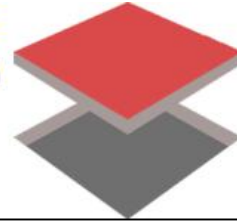
He's Risen!

"Providing today's ministers the freedom they want and the fellowship they need."



Dr. Tim Warner

CHAIRMAN'S Corner



SEEKER SENSITIVE: At Any Cost?

Let the church be the church God intended her to be!

Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church those who were being saved Acts 2:47

One of the most frequent conversations from *which ministerial buzz* develops is that of the seeker-sensitive church growth method. Information, seminars and articles abound on the subject. Ministers of all types will have to face this issue at some point. The line of reason goes something like this: *When first or second time visitors grace the church worship service, make sure these people are not offended by hearing speaking in tongues, prophetic utterances, any direct references toward sin or the need to change!* Oh yes, **make sure to have young, slick, representatives relevant look!**



Normally, I Cor. 14:23 is cited: **Therefore, if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?** The idea is that if there is speaking in tongues in a public worship service or if the church be given to that phenomenon, people will walk out of the assembly saying “those people are crazy!” I’ve heard it taught that you are not to allow gifts of the Spirit to operate on Sunday morning such as glossolalia or prophetic utterances. “If they stay in the church, you can explain to them later as to what you really believe, “they say, these same growth motivators say that it doesn’t matter if church leaders are baptized in the Holy Spirit; not so long as they have great social skills, managerial experience or a business background. My, how far we’ve strayed from New Testament Christianity. Church assistants could not even be designated as deacons to serve in distribution of feeding widows without having proven character and the infilling of the Spirit in the first localized church (Acts 6:3).

Further, it is said that there’s little value in the elderly and seasoned saints. “The real potential,” they say, “lies in the up-and-coming generation” regardless of their spiritual depth character or faithfulness to the Vision

of the House. In his article “Older Christians are Leaving Churches,” Wayne J. Edwards writes that [older church attendees] “are being told in no uncertain terms to move over and make way for the new generation.” This elder group, Edwards says, cannot “offer any criticism at all to this activity” and to do so “is to question the will of God.” He goes on to say that the seeker – sensitive – folks are bent on “dumbing down” the message of the gospel in order to “win some” of the un-churched. Finally, Edwards winsomely states, “I believe many pastors have become so concerned about reaching the un-churched that they are ‘un-churching’ the church” in their seeker-sensitive methodology.

So, what is the conclusion to this matter (Eccl. 12:13)? Where does the true minister of God land on this issue? Please consider the following statements:

1. There is a subtle wind of doctrine that promulgates “having a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. From such people turn away,” says the apostle (II Tim. 3:5)!

2. The power of God manifested through yielded vessels by operation of the Holy Spirit can and will attract seekers; not scare them away. Scripture says these observers will “fall on their face[s]...and report that God is truly among you” (I Cor. 14:24-25).



3. Some churches advertise “we’re alive and worth the drive” and are actually pronounced dead by the Head, even **Christ** (Rev. 3:1)!

4. Yes, we are to care for the un-reached and should be kind to seekers. That’s obvious. However, we are not to lower standards, compromise known truth, or dumb down the message in the process (II Cor. 6:16-17; I Tim. 4:6, 16; 6:20; Titus 1:10-16).

5. If a local church will hold to the Word, honor the name of God, and model the plan of God in the NT, He will “add” to the church just as he promised. (Rev. 3:10; I Cor. 12:18; 14:25; Acts 2:42).

Advance Notice



IMA

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

September 19-22

Speaker: Pastor Kemp Holden

RAY OF HOPE CHURCH

Comanche, Oklahoma

Pastor Mike & Mary McCord

Phone 580-252-7772

Web: <http://www.rohchurch.org>



WESTERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

APRIL 25-27

**Victory Tabernacle, Pastor Timothy Hinkle
3910 Marysville, Blvd., Sacramento, California**

District Chairman: Rev. William Wilson

INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

916-320-0249 760-375-8271

The Keeping Power of the Glorious God

By Rev. Paul Smith, Lucerne, California

Jude is giving us a variation on the theme of God being the same yesterday, today and forever. His words are, "before all ages, now and forever more." He is speaking of the faithfulness of the glorious God. We are being reminded that we are a part of God's eternal plan; he will keep us from falling and when it is time we will be presented in his glorious presence.



None of us can know just what it was like to literally be in the presence of Almighty God, only Jesus can reveal that. But, we are told Jesus prayed in John 17 that we would be in union with God just as he was in union with God. I'm not sure what that means altogether, but those of us who have experienced the new birth can have some idea.

We were first born into this world which is under the curse of coming judgment and God has offered us an escape from that judgment through being born into another world. We escape the curse of this world by being born into the kingdom of God. When we are born into God's kingdom we are exposed to his glory.

The writers of a gospel hymn tried to express just what this meant to them in these words; "It is joy unspeakable and full of glory." Though we may yet be in this fleshly temple, dwelling in a world under a curse, we are simultaneously dwelling in the spirit realm as a born again child of the kingdom where God's glory abounds. We who know Christ know God's glory.

Jude reminds us that God's glorious presence is not just for the here and now but it is for eternity. In our flesh alone we have no hope of attaining eternal glory, but by the keeping power of His glorious presence we are safe in Christ now and forever more.

Prayer: Lord, give me the grace to submit to you so that your keeping power will preserve my joy and your glory in me, now and forever more. In Jesus name, amen.

Excerpted from The Daily God devotional. The Daily God Walk is published monthly and is available in print as well as online. It is published as a daily blog at: godwalk.wordpress.com and it is on the web at: www.newhopeministryresources.org/dailywalk.html

IN LOVING MEMORY



Pastor John D. Thompson, age 86, Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, Brooksville, Florida, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 15, 2011. He is survived by his wife of over 57 years, Janet, a son and a daughter. Pastor Thompson was very active in prison ministry in Hernando County, Florida. One of his favorite sayings was, "Jesus light my fire." He was a member of the IMA for 15 and very active and faithful in the Florida IMA District. We send our deepest condolences to his wife (who has been very sick) the family and the church congregation.

Church Tax Compliance



Angie Childers, Executive Director/Treasurer, The Cathedral, Evansville, Indiana

There are two things Dr Chitwood, tax compliance expert, emphatically emphasis at his: seminars! Organized record keeping and receipts, receipts, receipts are a must! Not only should the church's record keeping be in pristine order, but every minister's personal records should be as well. And, yes, pastors the end time *is* near... for filing your 2010 tax return! This year everyone has a 3 day extension, with April 18 being this year's due date. So here are a few details to assist you if you have not yet prepared your return, or to file away for future reference.

Taxable Income For Ministers: Not only are wages and salaries paid by the employing church required to be reported, but the following income is also taxable:

Love offerings, Bonuses, Gifts (cash and non-cash, if they are given to you in your official capacity).

Fees from Funerals, Weddings, etc., Allowances for business expenses (when the Pastor is not expected to "adequately report" his business expenses to the church)

Non-Taxable Income: Fringe benefits available for clergy:

Educational expenses

Group term life Insurance

Group health Insurance Plans and self-insured reimbursement plans Disability Insurance Pension

Contributions

Housing allowance (not subject to federal FICA withholding) The tax code makes a distinction between qualified and non-qualified fringe benefits. Any non--qualifying fringe benefit should be treated as regular income.

It is best to have a professional accountant to prepare your tax return, one who is versed ; trained in these areas. If you plan to deduct business expenses on your personal return, the IRS regulations regarding business expenses are strict in that they require that you record the following:

Business travel. Receipts for expenditures, dates and place of travel, the business purpose for such travel, and how your ministry will benefit as a result of said travel

Entertainment. A mount of expenditures, names and titles of persons involved places and purpose

For every expense you intend to file, my advice is to make a copy of the receipt. Attach the original to the copy and record all information on the copy such as names, purpose, etc. This way all information is not contained on some small piece of paper that my fade or will be lost in years to come. File them in an organized manner by year. You need to retain the original signed, itemized receipt. Your credit card statement is not sufficient documentation alone.

I will be informing you more about organized record keeping next month. Good record keeping is vital to stay in compliance!

SPRING CONFERENCE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT APRIL 28-29

New Life Christian Church, Pastor Bob Pittman
1 North Main St., Rice Lake, Wisconsin
District Chairman: Rev. Regan Myers

INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

715-468-2895

Guest Speaker: Pastor Richard Scherber
Minnesota Teen Challenge, Executive Director

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Dr. Paul Todd

The views expressed in the Herald Newsletters do not necessarily reflect the consensus of IMA members