

**“What the Risen One has Done”
Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015**

In his second letter, Peter wrote: “This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder.” (2 Peter 3:1)

Lit.- *“I want you to experience a fresh awakening to a powerful reality!”*

CORE: What Jesus DESIRES FOR US, He has BROUGHT TO US through His death and resurrection.

1. FRIENDSHIP

Ephesians 2:6- “(God) raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 3:1-4- “If then you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God...Your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

- “Hidden with”—*to be brought into the secret place*
- Psalm 25:14- The “secrets of the Lord” are shared with “those who fear (*reverence, honor*) Him”
 - “Secret counsel” (Christian Standard Bible)
 - Lit.- “FRIENDSHIP; the confidential intimacy of trusted friends”

Because Jesus rose from the dead—“death (*separation*) no longer has dominion” (Romans 6:9)! Sin lost its power to separate us from Him! Because of His fully accomplished work (dying and rising)—“NOTHING can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:35-38)!!!

Though “once far off”—“NOW (we’ve been) BROUGHT NEAR” (Ephesians 2:13)!

Knowing and receiving this is vital, because—God’s love transforming the world begins with His love transforming us!

2. FULLNESS

One truth that permeates the Bible: GOD LOVES FULLNESS

- “The whole earth IS filled with His glory (*weighty, tangible evidence of His heart*)” (Isaiah 6:3)
- “The earth WILL BE filled with the knowledge (*the weighty, tangible experience of knowing Him intimately*)” (Habakkuk 2:14)

Ephesians 4:10- “He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.”

3. FRUITFULNESS

Romans 7:4- “...(we) belong to...him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.”

Fruit—what’s inside becomes evident outside.

“ABIDE IN Me (not strive for Me)—and you will bear much fruit!” (John 15:5)
(i.e., who we LOOK TO affects what we LOOK LIKE)

4. FAITHFULNESS

Jesus is faithful to His promises:

- *“I will be delivered into the hands of men, who will kill Me—but I will be raised on the third day.” (Matthew 17:22)*
- *“(Jesus) was raised on the third day—in fulfillment of the Scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:4)*
- *“What God promised to our fathers, He has fulfilled to their children—by raising Jesus from the dead.” (Acts 13:32-33)*

Jesus produces within us this same “steadiness of soul”—a deep devotion at the heart level. The fruit of “longsuffering.” The capacity to stand firm—we are “not of those who shrink back” (Heb. 10:39).

He “directs our hearts into Christ’s perseverance” (2 Thess. 3:5), filling us with His tenacity—the One who “passed through the heavenly realms” (Heb. 4:14); “triumphing over every enemy through His cross”—then “leading captivity captive” (Ephesians 4:8)

5. FORGIVENESS

Romans 4:25- “He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God” (NLT).

Like the shadow of the High Priest reappearing at the door of the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement—Jesus, our Great High Priest, emerged from the tomb bringing “atonement...for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:2).

CLOSING

Two final “bonus words”—Jesus’ work is FINISHED...and His benefits are FOREVER.

His final words to us: “I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20)