christian advance archives

# advance in discipleship - the cross, The resurrection and discipleship – 04/02-19

**THE CROSS, THE RESURRECTION AND DISCIPLESHIP**

The four Gospels all build up to Jesus’ death on the cross. Not all climax at that point but all traverse to the suffering and crucifixion of our Savior. Rightly, so. For there hung our perfect sacrificial lamb on a tree of shame and rejection. He turned it into a catalyst for God’s power and God’s glory. Our sins can now be forgiven! I can stand justified before God. A friend of God.

Faith in Christ alone is the starting point for discipleship provided by Jesus alone. It rocked all of human history. The call goes out to all who will respond, “Come follow Me” (Matt. 4:19). I am the Savior of the world.

Likewise, all four Gospels draw the reader to the greatest and final redemptive act in God’s plan to save the world. Jesus physically rises from death after being buried for three days in a rich man’s tomb. The point? God has conquered death. God has provided the avenue of life for all who will receive Jesus, and those who do will live forever. They also will be ambassadors of the King of Life.

Now, what more can be said? Is there anything else that would accompany such spectacular events? We’ll now that you mention it, yes! The risen Jesus gathers all (11) of His disciples and adds, “go make disciples” (Matt. 28:19).

His disciples meet Him on a mountain, worship Him, and question all that has taken place. However, don’t lose sight of the fact that they are there because they are His. He is their Messiah. He walked, talked, taught, healed, cast out and lived out His life with them for three years.

Now, because of Him they are inexorably bound together. Their faith is now taken to a much greater level. They serve a living, risen Lord who is alive forever more.

Holding on to this realization brings a confidence in being His disciples. He provided forgiveness from the penalty of sin, victory over the power of sin and the promise to be with us until the end of the age (Matt. 28:20). The work done on the cross, the victory of the empty tomb and the Commission to make disciples provides everything necessary to redeem a lost and dying world.