

ST. BARNABAS EASTER SUN. APR 21, 2019 JN.20:1-9 COL 3:1-4

CHRIST IS RISEN,,HE IS RISEN IN DEED. WE READ THAT MARY MAGDALA AND OTHER WOVEN AS RECORDED IN THE OTHER GOSPLES,,ARRIVED AT THE TOMB EARLY IN THE MORNING WHILE IT WAS STILL DARK,, AND THEY SAW THE LARGE STONE ROLLED AWAY FROM THE ENTRANCE. f

SO MARY MAGDALA RAN TO PETER AND THE DISCIPLE AND TOLD THEM THAT JESUS WAS MISSING. PETER AND JOHN WENT TO INVESTIGATE,,,, THEY SAW THE EMPTY TOMB ,, THE GRAVE CLOTHS LAYING EMPTY,,AND BELIEVED. BUT WHAT DID THEY BELIEVE,, THAT JESUS BODY WAS GONE,, BECAUSE THEY DID NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SCRIPTURES,, WHAT THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS HAD FORETOLD,, OR THAT EVEN JESUS HAD SAID,, HE WAS TO RISE FROM THE DEAD,, AND THAT FEW DAYS LATER HE WOULD ASSEND INTO HEAVEN TO SIT AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER.

BUT THAT IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF LIFE FOR US,, BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION ST PAUL SAYS IN COL.....,"**SINCE YOU WERE RAISED WITH CHRIST,, SEEK WHAT IS ABOVE,, WHERE CHRIST IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.**" HOW WERE YOU RAISED WITH CHRIST ? PAUL GIVES THE ANSWER IN ROM'S CH6,, "**DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ALL OF US WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH? WE WERE THEREFORE BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH IN ORDER THAT JUST AS CHRIST WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD THROUGH THE GLORY OF THE FATHER,, WE TOO MAY LIVE A NEW LIFE.**" A NEW REDEEMED RESURRECTED LIFE,, WITH A SPIRIT MADE PERFECT IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST,, HIDDEN IN

CHRIST,, HOLY AND BLAMELESS BEFORE THE FATHER AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. (EPH CH. 1) HE WHO NEW NO SIN BECAME SIN FOR US,,, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST.

SINCE ALL OF THESE STATEMENTS OF GODS WORD ARE TRUE,,, THEN THERE OUGHT TO BE SOME RESULTS THAT REFLECT THIS NEW LIFE IN CHRIST IN OUR LIVES.

PAUL SAYS,,, "THINK OF WHAT IS ABOVE,, NOT OF WHAT IS ON EARTH." HOWEVER,,, THERE ARE FAR TO MANY SO CALLED PROFESSING CHRISTIANS WHO THINK ,, WELL I GOT BAPTIZED,, I'M IN,, THEN GO AS THEY PLEASE ,, GO TO CHURCH IF I FEEL LIKE IT ,, USE THE LORD'S NAME,,, NOT IN WOSHIP,,, A SWEAR WORD,, NEVER TRULY REPENT OF SIN,,, NOR COMMIT THEIR LIVES TO JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR,, OR HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM OR LIVE A NEW CHANGED LIFE,,, THEY ONLY SEEK AFTER THE TEMPORARY EMPTY THINGS OF THIS WORLD,, AND NOT WHAT IS ABOVE,,, THEY FORSAKE THEIR BAPTISM.

WHAT ST. PAUL IS SAYING,,, A TRUE BELIEVER ,, "THINKS,,, OR KEEPS THINKING ON WHAT IS ABOVE..." THIS IS NOT OPTIONAL IT IS A COMMAND,,, NOT A SUGGESTION. FOR US AS BELIEVERS WE ARE TO MAKE OUR BAPTISM A LIVING REALITY,, A LIFE CHANGING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS ON AN ON GOING BASIS JUST BY PRAYING A SIMPLE PRAYER,, LORD I REPENT OF MY SIN / S,, I DIE TO SELF WITH YOU,,, TO BE RAISED TO RESURRECTION LIFE,,, TO LIVE IN YOUR LOVE,, GRACE ,, FORGIVENESS,,, AND YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

BUT WHAT DOES REPENTANCE MEAN,,, IT MEANS TO TURN 180% AWAY FROM WHAT YOU WERE DOING. IF YOU JUST CONFESSED A SIN THEN YOU TURN AWAY FROM FROM THAT SIN AND TURN TO JESUS. IT ALSO MEANS A CHANGE OF MIND,, CHANGE OF THOUGHT LIFE,,, CHANGE OF ATTITUDE,, A CHANGE OF LIFE STYLE,,, A CHANGE FROM THE DARK AND SINFUL WORLD TEMPS US WITH,,, TO THE FREEDOM FROM SIN AND DEATH,, TO NEW RESURRECTION LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS.

IF WE TAKE SERIOUSLY OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST,, THAT OUR OLD SIN NATURE HAS BEEN BURIED WITH CHRIST,,, AND AND RAISED UP WITH HIM,,, THEN WE HEAR ,, “ ,, **IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST,, HE IS A NEW CREATURE,, THE OLD THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY,, ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW.**" 2COR 5:17

THIS IS A RADICAL CHANGE FROM SPIRITUAL DEATH,,, TO NEW SPIRITUAL LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS. THE OLD SINFUL NATURE THAT CONTROLLED YOUR SPIRIT IS GONE,,, AND THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST NOW FILLS YOUR SPIRIT WITH RESURRECTION LIFE,,, TO LEAD AND GUIDE YOU INTO NEW ABUNDANT LIFE WITH JESUS.

SEEKING THE THINGS ABOVE MEANS THINKING ABOUT JESUS SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER FOR US,, AND NOT BEING PREOCCUPIED WITH THE THINGS OF THIS EARTH. IN OTHER WORDS,,,HAVING A CHANGE OF THOUGHT,,, CHANGES THE THINGS WE ALLOW OUR MINDS TO FOCUS ON. THE BOOK OF ROM.S CH.8 SAYS,,, IF WE THINK ON SINFUL THINGS WE WILL BE CONTROLLED BY THEM,,, BUT IF OUR MIND IS CONTROLLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT WE WILL HAVE LIFE AND PEACE,,,,,BECAUSE THE SINFUL MIND IS OPPOSED TO GOD. IF YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH PEACE MAYBE YOUR THINKING ABOUT THE WRONG THINGS.

SO BY CHANGING OUR THOUGHTS HAVING OUR MINDS RENEWED IN CHRIST BY THE H.SP. ,, YOU CAN HAVE LIFE AND PEACE.

OUR SCRIPTURE READING REAFFIRMS OUR POSITION AGAIN,,,"
FOR YOU HAVE DIED,, AND YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD." AS A BELIEVER YOU ARE SO INTIMATELY IDENTIFIED WITH JESUS DEATH THERE IS NOTHING TO SAY BUT THE OLD SELF DIED. ROM. 6:6 PUTS IT THIS WAY,,," **"FOR WE KNOW THAT YOUR OLD SELF WAS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM SO THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED,, THAT WE SHOULD NO LONGER BE SLAVES TO SIN."**

TO GET THE FULL MEANING ABOUT DYING WITH CHRIST,, BEING CRUCIFIED WITH HIM,, WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE CREATION. YOU WERE CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD. GOD IS TRINITY,,,, AND SO ARE YOU,, SPIRIT,, SOUL AND BODY. WHEN ADAM AND EVE REBELLED IN THE GARDEN ,, GOD SAID YOU SHALL SURELY DIE. BUT THEY DID NOT PHYSICALLY DIE DID THEY. ADAM LIVED 930 YRS. BUT THEY SPIRITUALLY DIED,, THEIR SPIRIT DIED AND THEIR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD ENDED. THUS WE INHERIT WHAT WE CALL ORIGINAL SIN OR THE SIN NATURE,, OR AS SCRIPTURE SAYS SPIRITUAL DEATH.

BUT WHEN YOU REPENT OF SIN AND MAKE A PROFESSION OF FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS,, WHICH REAFFIRMS YOUR BAPTISM LIKE WE WILL DO TODAY. THE SCRIPTURES WE HAVE READ TODAY SAID THAT THE OLD DEAD SPIRIT YOU INHERITED ,, WAS CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND YOU ARE NO LONGER A SLAVE TO SIN. BUT IT DOES NOT STOP THERE,, THE VERSE IN ROMS, CONTINUES,, "**COUNT YOURSELVES DEAD TO SIN BUT ALIVE IN GOD,, IN CHRIST JESUS.**" NEW RESURRECTION LIFE. AMEN. YOUR SPIRIT IS BORN ANEW IN THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST,, A PARTAKER OF THE

DIVINE NATURE, A DWELLING PLACE FOR THE HOLY TRINITY,,
BELONGING TO AND IN UNION WITH JESUS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST,,
IN GOD THE FATHER. YOUR SPIRIT IS AS RIGHTEOUS AS IT IS EVER
GOING TO GET,, IT IS A POSITIONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS IN CHRIST
JESUS BY GRACE AND FAITH.

WE KNOW THIS BECAUSE IN GAL. 2:20 WE READ,, "I HAVE BEEN
CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST AND I (THE OLD SELF OR SPIRIT) NO
LONGER LIVE,,,,, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME... THE LIFE I LIVE IN THE
BODY,, (SOUL AND MIND),, I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD,,
WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME." AMEN

SO YOU MIGHT ASK,, WHY THEN DO I STILL FALL FOR TEMPTATION
AND SIN OR HAVE WRONG THOUGHTS ,,,IF I HAVE A REDEEMED
RIGHTEOUSNESS SPIRIT HIDDEN WITH CHRIST. BECAUSE THERE
IS THE CONFLICT WITH OUR SOUL WHICH IS OUR EMOTIONS,,
FEELINGS,, PASSIONS OR DESIRES,, AND OUR MIND,, OUR
THOUGHT LIFE. THOSE TWO ARE CALLED THE FLESH IN
SCRIPTURE,, WHERE ST. PAUL SAYS THE BATTLE GOES ON
BETWEEN THE FLESH AND THE RIGHTEOUS SPIRIT WITHIN,,,,, SO
WE DAILY LIVE BY FAITH,, CHOOSING TO LIVE ACCORDING TO THE
DESIRES OF THE FLESH OR THE DESIRES OF THE SPIRIT,, ST. PAUL
SAID,,,,, " " .

THIS IS WHY WE ARE TO SURRENDER OURSELVES TO THE POWER
THE HOLY SPIRIT,, TO ALLOW HIM TO GUIDE AND DIRECT OUR
LIVES ,,, CHANGING US INTO THE LIFESTYLE OF JESUS AND TO
RENEW OUR MINDS ,,, GIVING US THE DESIRE TO LOVE AND SEEK
THE THINGS ABOVE,,,,, THEN THE THINGS OF EARTH WILL GROW
LESS IMPORTANT,, LESS TEMPTING.

CHRIST JESUS CAME TO GIVE US RESURRECTION LIFE FULL OF
JOY AND PEACE,, VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH,, LET US GO OUT
AND LIVE IT.

+AMEN