

"He Lives!"

By D. Shelby Corlett

The Easter message may be summed up in two words, "Jesus lives," or "He lives." The message of a living Saviour, One who had come forth from the grave as a complete Conqueror over death and hell, was the good news that inspired the hearts of the apostles and captivated the souls of their hearers. "He lives" is the essence of the gospel which today proclaims to the world, not a mere creed or doctrine, but a living, powerful Christ who is able to save to the uttermost all who come to God by Him.

It is difficult for us to imagine the feeling of the hearts of those disciples of our Lord who first heard this message. How poorly prepared they were for such good news! But to no group of people in all history did the message of a risen Lord mean more than to the early disciples. What a tragedy it is that the Christian Church since that time has not been equally thrilled with the message that "He lives"!

He lives! There is a Companion to walk with us on our way to Emmaus: One who shares our problems, our burdens, our anxieties; One who offers His fellowship in all circumstances of life; One who goes with us through every experience we have. Our way of life passes through such varied situations! But because "He lives" we have a sympathetic, understanding Companion to walk with us all the way into our heavenly home.

He lives! There is Pentecost! When asked what was the source of Pentecost, Peter boldly declared that it was the work of the risen Jesus. He had been raised from the dead. He was by the right hand of God exalted. He has shed forth this—the fullness of the Holy Spirit. "He lives," and the Holy Spirit is filling the hearts of God's people today as they utterly yield themselves to Him and receive of His fullness by faith. Every Spirit-filled Christian is a walking evidence of a living Christ. How sad it is that so many Christians are content to live in the dimness of a pre-Pentecostal experience, without knowing the full blessing of a living Christ, the fullness of the Holy Spirit!

He lives! There is His Church living through the ages as the testimony to His presence and a witness of His saving grace. The Church is "the body of Christ"; Christ is its living Head. From what other source could the Christian Church have received its life and strength except from a living Christ. That there is a Christian Church at all, after all of the checkered experience of human history, is an evidence that there is divine life inherent in it—the life of the living Lord.

He lives! There are transformed lives as the evidence of a supernatural work of a conquering Saviour. Something happens in the lives of ordinary men and women when they meet the risen Lord. They are transformed by His life and power. Look over the line of march during the past nineteen hundred years; the proud, the self-willed, the self-righteous, the haughty, the liar, the gambler, the drunkard, the harlot, the thief, the murderer, the adulterer, the profane person, the covetous, and all other types of sinners who have met this risen Lord—all have been transformed into humble children of God.

That first Easter is re-enacted in some manner every time a sinner repents and savingly believes on Christ for salvation; for it is then that the mighty power of God "which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead" becomes active within a human life. This risen Christ not only brings initial salvation, but also He "lives within my heart," giving continual victory over all evil.

He lives! There is the Spirit of a living Christ at work in the world today. The world is different because "He lives." True, there is evil, and there seems to be more and more of evil manifested today; but there is also the Spirit of a living Christ at work in the world. Oh, what would this world be like, swamped as it is by the floods of evil influences, if it were not for the power of a risen Lord to stem these floods?

He lives—and we have a heavenly Intercessor, a Mediator with the Father, an Advocate to plead our cause.

EASTER

By G. W. Wiseman

Easter must be reclaimed.

Too long the world has missed the Easter glow,

Charmed by the glitter of a fashion show,
A dress parade; a gala holiday;
With church-bound manikins upon display.
The faith of Easter never will be caught
By making Christ a fleeting afterthought.

Easter must be redeemed

From revelry that marks the end of Lent,
And worshippers who yearly are content
To journey to God's house, and then forget
That Christ still lives when Easter's sun has set.

The vision fades; the power soon is lost.
If Easter does not lead to Pentecost.

Easter must be relived.

Where is the zeal that followed Easter's birth?

The faith that doomed the soulless gods of earth?

No shadow, lifeless spirit of repose
Prevailed that cloudless morn when Christ arose.

The Easter atmosphere cannot revive
A torpid faith that thinks itself alive.

—Biblical Recorder

He lives—and He shall return to this earth some day, perhaps before long, to bring to the world and God's people the full victory purchased by His death on Calvary and in His glorious resurrection from the grave.

He lives! How impoverished heaven and earth would be if He were still dead, if some tomb today held the dust of His physical body! How rich is the universe because there is a living Christ whose power, which was manifested in His resurrection, is holding all things together and moving the events of human history toward the glorious consummation of the eternal purpose of the Father. How rich are all who truly accept Him as their living Saviour—rich because He who was rich for their sakes became poor that they through His poverty might be rich!

He lives! Thank God again and again. He lives! The eternal praises of the redemption of all ages, tribes, and nations will declare it. —Herald of Holiness.

Our Easter Hope and Duty

It is said that the Romans had a practice of lighting up their tombs. In the tomb of Tullia, Cicero's daughter, when opened, a lamp was found. These lamps could illuminate the catacombs only for a day, and that with a glimmering light, whose rays were confined to the walls of the catacombs. But the light Christ sheds upon the grave falls upon the vista of eternity, and you can see, at this glad Eastertide, immortality beyond. What a blessed hope this is!

We all want to live. The thought of death in itself is dreadful. Not merely the fact of dying, but the separations which of necessity are involved make us all shrink from it. But Christ said: "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." The Easter hope is a hope of immortality, of a blessed life forevermore. It is also a hope of seeing and being with Jesus. Can we grasp it? Here in this life we talk about Jesus, read about Him, sing about Him, but go on and on and never see Him. But there, when our Easter hope is realized, we shall see Him face to face. We shall be like Him dwell in His presence, never again to be out of His sight. No wonder Christians sing so joyously:

"Some day the silver cord will break,
And I no more as now shall sing;
But, O, the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King,
And I shall see Him face to face,
And tell the story—Saved by grace."

The Easter hope is also a hope of meeting our loved ones gone before. If He is immortal and they are immortal, and we immortal, then when we come to be with Him we shall be with them, too, with our loved ones gone before.

In Venice is a very beautiful monument in the form of a pyramid. Within that structure are the remains of a little child in the sleep of death. On the door of the strange tomb is the inscription, "Till He Come." By the door stands an angel sculptured from the whitest marble. One hand of the angel rests upon the latch of the door, the other holds a trumpet. The seraph is peering intently into the distant heavens, watching for the first appearance of our coming Lord. Lo! He comes! and every eye doth see Him. The latch is uplifted, the door thrown open, and the angel through his trumpet shouts: "Little sleeper, come forth from the tomb." You who mourn over the graves of loved ones, hear the lesson of hope that comes to you amid the flowers of Easter—"It is only till He come!" We are to see again those dear ones who have slipped away from us into the silent land. We are to hear again those hushed voices, touch those vanished hands, meet and evermore be with those we have loved and lost awhile. It is only "till He come!"

What is the duty of those possessing this hope? It is the same as was Mary's the first Easter morning: "Go quickly and tell." If there is one day in the year which should be more a missionary day than another we think that day is Easter. We have the good news. Surely we ought to tell it. If our hope of immortality is "a living hope," surely it will breathe, speaking helpful, cheering, saving words to others. And it will walk; it will go

(Continued on Page 8)