The King's Highway

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

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THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION

The Easter message of "Christ is risen indeed!", is the keynote of the Gospel of salvation. The fact of the triumph of the Son of God over the forces that held Him captive in Joseph's tomb, is the cornerstone of the great spiritual structure of the Kingdom of God on earth. Deduct from the Word, the sermon, the testimony, a living faith in the risen Lord, and our Holy Book is an idle tale, our preaching is foolishness indeed, and we who deny ourselves, take up the cross and follow Him, are in truth "of all men most miserable." Sad and unhappy is the plight of the individual and group who, while professing to be followers of the blessed Nazarene, and laying much stress on the exemplary purity of His life, the efficacious provisions of His death, fail to behold and sense the enduring power of His resurrection. These are left with a pattern that is idealistic and impractical, a death which is only a revelation of what men need, not a benefit to become a present and conscious realization. Only those who appreciate the potency of Christ's Easter triumph can discover the true meaning of Calvary and realize the uplifting and transforming influence of the life of Jesus.

In His resurrection victory Christ exhibited a mastery over the power of three great forces. The empty tomb evidenced a unique and final triumph over the natural, temporal, and spiritual orders.

Previous to His crucifixion Jesus had declared: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews, mistaking the meaning of His words, thought He spoke of Solomon's temple, but the apostle John adds: "But He spake of the temple of His body." Thus Jesus prophesied that He could not, and would not be enslaved to the powers that caused decay in the natural sphere, that He was able to conquer man's most dreaded foe; and He demonstrated in His coming forth from the tomb that He was more that a match for any forces that were active in physical realm.

Death could not keep his prey,
Jesus the Saviour:
He tore the bars away,
Jesus the Lord!

Joined in alliance with natural law in its efforts to

enslave the Son of God, was the might of temporal power. Remembering Christ's prophecy that he would rise again, and anxious to employ every means that would help to keep Him a prisoner, the Pharises sought the assistance of Rome and its military might. Their request was: "Command that the sepulchre be made sure...", and the government responded by fixing the Roman seal to the tomb, and placing a strong guard of well-armed soldiers to keep watch. But when the hour struck when He would come forth, the authority of the Roman seal, emblem of the strength of earthly government, did obeisance to a greater than Caesar, and the soldier guards fell to the ground and "became as dead men." The combined strength of forces natural and temporal, were not sufficient to imprison the Lord and Redeemer!

The final and most decisive element in the victory of Christ's resurrection, was in the giving way of spiritual forces that opposed Him. The conflict which Jesus waged in behalf of fallen men reached its fiercest intensity in the realms of the unseen. He wrestled not merely against flesh and blood, but principalities and powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world. He had battle to do, not only with the physical and temporal, but also the spiritual. A description of the struggle which ensued between Satan and the hordes of hell, and the Lord Jesus, can not be given in detail. The awful straining of these master forces against one another cannot be fully imagined by the human mind, but one thing we know well- there was a terrible warfare waged, and Jesus Christ emerged a complete and final conqueror. The claim, made by none other than Himself, is proven by the Easter appearance, "I am He that liveth, and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore ... AND have the keys of death and hell." Wrested from the unwilling hands of the devil, torn from his grasp by One mightier than he, was the right and power to hold mankind in permanent enslavement.

Yes, thank God, He won the victory over every opposing and impeding force! He lives and reigns today in majesty supreme, and the power of His resurrection, the irresistible dynamic demonstrated in His Easter triumph, is available through salvation to all that call upon Him. The glory of the resurrection message is not merely in the historical victory of Jesus, but in the possibility of having transmitted to us the elements and potentialities that make for a like conquest. Taking the field of battle we are able to fight victoriously on all three fronts, natural, temporal, and spiritual, and through the might of His imparted grace, go forth conquering and to conquer. "Thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

All hail the power of Jesus' name,
Let angels prostrate fall:
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall:
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him, Lord of all!

"Christ died fon our sins according to the Scriptures; ... He was buried, and ... rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (I Corinthians 15:34).

Would you like to be a radiant Christian? Spend time in prayer. Why is it that prayer in the Name of Christ makes one radiantly happy? It is because prayer makes God real. The gladdest thing upon earth is to have a real God! Unless you take time for prayer and fellowship with God, you cannot have a real God. If you do take time for prayer you will have a real, living God, and if you have a living God you will have a radiant life.