

## - Editorial -

### *Raised with Him*

By the late Dr. James F. Gregory  
who passed away March 6, 1964

Hope of immortality is universal hope which has found expression in every age. Until Christ came, it was merely a wish. After His resurrection it became a certainty — an abiding fact of history.

The resurrection assures us that God never mocks His creatures. He planted a hope in the human heart, and He satisfied it with His own fullness. All down through the ages men have longed to be assured that death is not the end of everything for themselves and their dear ones. Their longings are now satisfied in Christ's rising. God has shown men that their aspirations were not unsubstantial dreams. Consequently, we rejoice on this Easter Sunday that not only has Christ been raised from the dead, but He has also overcome death for us.

The truth of the resurrection will bear the most exhaustive examination which the mind can bring to bear upon it. It is a fact from which springs a personal experience. "If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above." This will demand all the faculties of the mind. Many people do not imagine that faith calls for thought. Yet the fuller the faith, the deeper thought, is often the case with Christians.

The mind of the devout Christian is set on "the things that are above." The direction of our thoughts tells us a great deal about ourselves. In a large measure we become like that about which we think. The man who thinks that everything is to be known only in terms of matter or force will find himself plunging deeper and deeper into materialistic things. As the Christian thinks of God and of His will, he will concentrate more and more on the things of the Spirit as they are related to self, humanity and God.

Easter is a summons to this kind of thinking by which we seek "the things that are above." These heavenly things become part of us, and we relate them to life as we find it.

Paul says that if we have been raised with Christ, we must not only seek the things which are above, but we must also set our mind upon them. We must show a real affection for them. Our desires are the raw material or character. The way in which a man deals with his desires as they arise largely decides the way in which he will be molded for good or evil. Sin is the product of unregulated desire. It is, therefore, upon the right control of our affections that the well-being of our life depends.

This being so, our love must be set upon God. Above all others He has the right to have our affections. He can rightly claim them, for He is love, and He made us in love. So when the influence of the divine love is felt in the soul, and our souls have responded to it, a sphere of love is created in the heart which includes God and all mankind.

It is the core of the gospel to speak of God's love as being seen in the offering of His Son for the world's sin, but His love also is found in His bursting the bonds of death, so that in Christ's rising we also may rise. If we have risen with Him by faith, He will draw the affections of our hearts upwards from earth to heaven.

In a familiar Easter prayer, it is prayed that as God has put good desires into our minds, He will also grant us His help to "bring the same to good effect." Here is the sphere of the will. By the will, we mean that determination of the inner being which leads to action. Every thought must have the assent of the will before it becomes a deed. So the will directs the conscious self towards its ends and its aims. It is because of this self-

direction that we hold people responsible for their actions. We do well to ask God so to direct us in the decisions of the will that we may do the right thing.

As we are truly raised with Christ from the dead, our wills rise upward to God in seeking those things which are above. All this seeking of the good, and the direction of the will to that end, means that there is a final good to be attained. There must be an absolute one. That good must be the same for all men, for all of us are bound up in the one bundle of humanity of God's creation. The ultimate good is found in God and the things which are above.

If we are raised unto life from the death of sin, our minds, our hearts and our wills are set on God and His will for us. The resurrection of Christ assures us that all the hindrances in the path of our quest have been removed. He has overcome the devil and all his works, including death itself. We may experience here and now a foretaste of the fullness of the resurrection life which will be ours in the great hereafter.

—The Free Methodist

### DR. JAMES F. GREGORY PASSES

Dr. James F. Gregory, editor of "The Free Methodist" passed away suddenly on March 6 of a heart ailment. Dr. Gregory's last article, "Raised With Him" is reprinted in this issue of The Highway. A capable editor and a strong exponent of Arminian-Wesleyan theology, Dr. Gregory will be sadly missed by those of his own church as well as by a host of others.

### DR. S. T. LUDWIG PASSES

Dr. S. T. Ludwig, general secretary of The Church of the Nazarene for twenty years, passed away on March 3 in a Kansas City Hospital. A distinguished leader among Nazarenes, Dr. Ludwig served his Church as spiritual leader, educator and administrator. Appointed to take his place as general secretary is The Rev. B. Edgar Johnson of Upland, California.

### REVIVAL?

The real test for our desire for a revival lies in what we are doing now to win souls for Christ.

—Watchman Examiner

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