

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

APRIL 2023

Five Things Christ's Resurrection Accomplished

The bodily resurrection of Christ is a fundamental of Christianity. This means it defines the Christian faith. No one can be a Christian without it: "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." (1 Corinthians 15:14).

This may sound severe, but saying anything less neglects what the resurrection of Christ accomplished. Why does Christianity depend on the resurrection of Christ? What does it mean for us? Here are five accomplishments:

1. To Declare Himself the Son of God

Jesus claimed the ability to raise his own self from the dead: "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:19). This is the power of God!

He told Israel the sign that proved he was the Son of God would be his resurrection: "But he answered and said unto them, an evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:39-40).

Jonah came out of the whale alive!

Paul also testifies to this resurrection declaration in Romans 1:4 "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

If he did not resurrect, then he was a liar, not the promised Christ, and not God manifest in the flesh.

(continued on Page 2)



AVALON GRACE CHURCH

3801 GUILFORD ROAD

NAPLES, FLORIDA 34112

(239) 774-4214

avalongracechurchofnaples@gmail.com

www.avalongracechurch.com

Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims

Kathleen Smith, Editor

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday Messages available on website:

(www.avalongracechurch.com)

Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM

**"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**

- Ephesians 3:9

Five Things Christ's Resurrection Accomplished (Continued from Page 1)

2. Payment for Sins

You may be thinking that it was through his death and shed blood that he provided the atonement for sins, and you would be right. However, if he did not resurrect, his death would not mean anything: "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17).

The resurrection of Christ not only proved he was the eternal God, the giver of all life, but that his work to pay for sins through his death was sufficient and complete. Without resurrection his death would have been a good effort, but would be like writing a check without money in the bank. It bounces. His resurrection meant the check was cashed! The work was finished!

Our sins were not paid in full until Christ rose from the dead.

3. Salvation Offered

Jesus Christ is the Saviour. If the Saviour is still dead, then how would you know why he died, or that he died willingly, or that he died for you? Scripture describes Jesus as a mediator: "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5). But if the mediator is dead then future reconciliation is impossible.

Christ revealed the mystery of the gospel after his resurrection.

Christ could only offer free salvation by grace (his work for you and me) through faith if he had already finished the work, and he was not dead. If Christ is still dead, then our faith is dead, and so is any hope of salvation.

4. Righteousness Imputed

The resurrection of Christ proves his own righteousness. After dying for the sins of the world, if he were not perfectly righteous in so doing, he would not deserve to live again.

It is only by his resurrection that his righteousness can be imputed to us. The gospel does not stop with our sins being put on Christ. It must finish

with his righteousness being imputed to us: "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Without Christ's resurrection in righteousness, we could never be justified by faith (Romans 4:22-25).

5. Give Power of Eternal Life

Christ's bodily resurrection exhibited the power to raise humanity from the dead.

The promise of eternal life would be nonsense if the Savior ended his life with death never to live again. There is no life found in a dead Savior.

The Lord Jesus Christ defeated death through his resurrection, alive forevermore, to guarantee life eternal. It is the power of his resurrection that he offers to us through the gospel. Without the bodily resurrection of Christ, we could not live the Christian life. There would be no life in Christ.

Life and immortality was only brought to light at the appearing of Christ after his resurrection: "But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Timothy 1:10). Without Christ's resurrection we are all dead. (Portions taken from Grace Ambassadors.com).

Conclusion

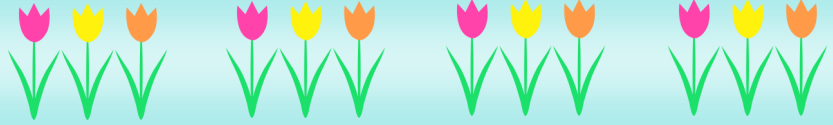
In summary, we would not be Christians unless Christ rose from the dead. It is no coincidence that most of these reasons are found in the epistles where the mystery of Christ is revealed.

It was Paul who said, "Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel." (2 Timothy 2:8)

Janet and I along with our family wish you a blessed Resurrection Sunday with family and friends, giving thanks to God for eternal life through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Phil

Easter Reflections . . .



I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES! (Anonymous)

*I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead.
He lives! My ever living Head!*

*He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above:
He lives my hungry soul to feed.
He lives to help in my time of need.*

*He lives to grant me rich supply:
He lives to guide me with His eyes.
He lives to comfort me when we faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.*

*He lives to silence all my fears.
He lives to wipe away my tears.
He lives to calm my troubled heart.
He lives all blessings to impart.*

*He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly Friend.
He lives and loves me to the end.
He lives, and while I'll worship and sing:
He lives - my Prophet, Priest,
Lord, my King!*

*He lives and grants me daily breath.
He lives and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.*

*He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
Oh sweet the joy this sentence gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives!*

QUOTES FOR THE WISE & YOUNG AT HEART:

"The first of April, some do say,
Is set apart for All Fools' Day.
But why the people call it so,
Not I, nor they themselves do know.
But on this day are people sent
On purpose for pure merriment."

~ *Poor Robin's Almanac*, 1790



Easter is the only time of the year when its perfectly safe to put all your eggs into one basket. ~ Unknown

See the land ~ her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices.

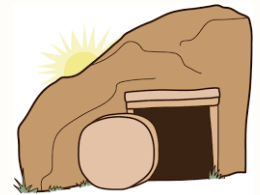
~ Charles Kingsley

"The Resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances no matter what my circumstances."

~ Robert Flatt

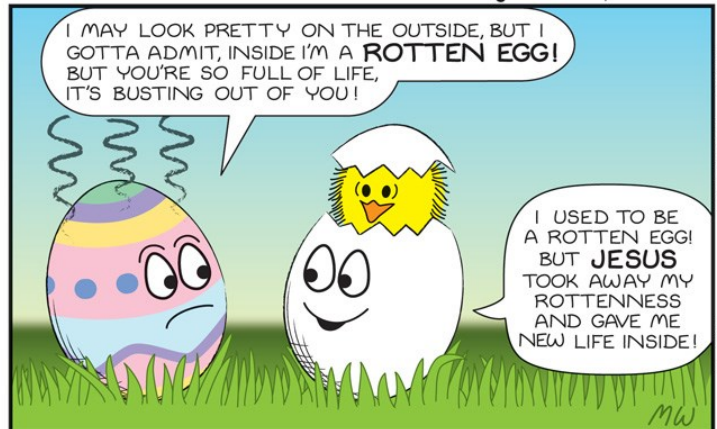
"The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. ~ **Song of Solomon 2:12**

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.
Come, see the place where the Lord lay."
~ **Matthew 28:6**



EASTER EGGS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

~ JOHN 20:31 KJV

Easter Traditions . . .

Many cherished and colorful Easter traditions and symbols have been around for centuries and are associated with the Easter holiday. The most prominent secular symbol of the Christian holiday, the Easter Bunny, reportedly was introduced to America by German immigrants who brought over their stories of an egg-laying hare. The decoration of eggs is believed to date back to at least the 13th century, while the rite of the Easter parade has even older roots. Nevertheless, Satan's purpose in this world is to shift the world's focus from Jesus Christ and the gospel of God's grace by replacing it with celebrating a silly rabbit rather than glorifying the Risen Lord.

Other traditions, such as the consumption of coconut cream eggs and an annual Easter Egg Hunt are among the modern additions to the celebration of this early springtime holiday. Easter Hats & new clothes represent the tradition of wearing new clothes at Easter, in harmony with the beginning of spring, and the promise of spiritual renewal and redemption.

The tradition of the Easter parade began after the Civil War as a "fashion promenade," rooted in the custom of a Sunday walk following religious services on Easter Sunday.

Wealthy New Yorkers would emerge from their respective houses of worship along Fifth Avenue to stroll down the street, dine at hotels nearby, or pay social calls. The "Easter bonnet" was fixed in popular culture by Irving Berlin, whose frame of reference was the Easter Parade in New York City, a festive walkabout that made its way down Fifth Avenue from St. Patrick's Cathedral each year.

However, after a pandemic pause in 2020-2021, people again took to Fifth Avenue last year around 53rd Street to show off their bonnets and other finery. The 2023 Easter Parade and Bonnet festival will be held on April 9th at 10:00 am in New York City. The parade is not televised on TV but captions of it are covered on network news.



Because He Lives . . .

Words and Music by William J. Gaither, 1971

God sent His son,
They called Him Jesus.
He came to love, heal and forgive.
He lived and died, to buy my pardon.
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.



Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold a new born baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives.
But greater still is that assurance the child can face
Uncertain days because He lives.

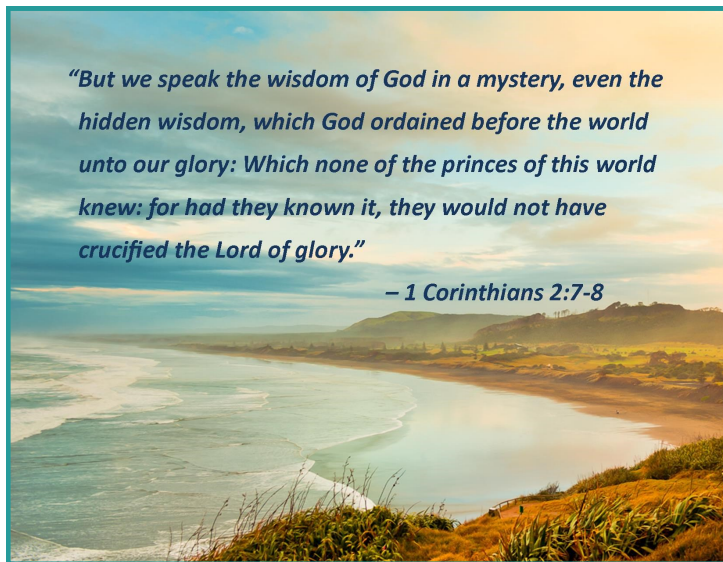
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know, I know, I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day, I'll cross that river.
I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory.
I'll see the light of glory and I'll know that He lives.

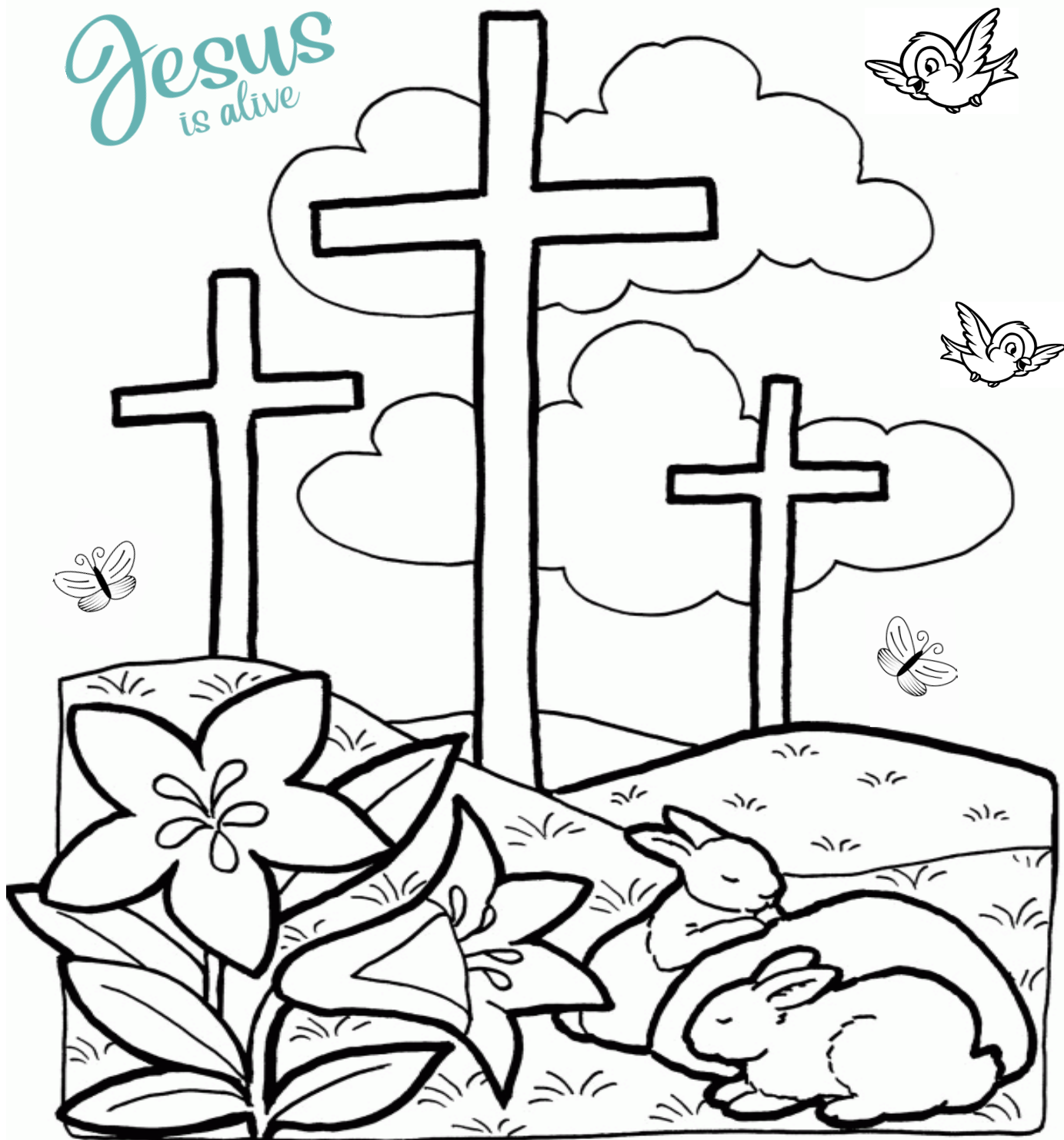
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know, I know, I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."

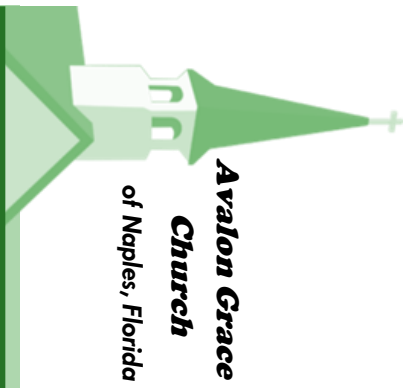
— 1 Corinthians 2:7-8



Coloring for Jesus



“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.” - I Corinthians 15:20



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida



SUN MON TUE WED FRI THU SAT

1

2 PALM SUNDAY 3

9:45 Sunday
Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's

4

5

6

7

GOOD FRIDAY



8

9

**He is
RISEN**
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

10

11

12

13

14

15

APRIL
1st Pat Crim
8th Willard Hedden
11th Susan Anderson
14th David Anderson
27th James Crim



COMING IN MAY 2023

7th 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast
14th Mother's Day

23

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

24

25

26

27

28

29

30