

# “HE IS NOT HERE...”

Matthew 28:5-6 (KJV) - *“And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified **He is not here:** for he is risen”*

We see that on that first Resurrection Morning, the angel declared that Jesus was not in the tomb. Jesus had risen from the grave and He was alive. The question asked to the women who came to the tomb was, *“Why do you seek the living among the dead?”* That may seem like a very simple question by the angel. However, it was profound. After all, He was speaking about Jesus.

The same Jesus who time and time again had told all of His disciples and His followers that He was going to be crucified and die on the cross. However, He also told them that He would “rise again.” They just didn’t understand. We see that, just as the disciples and His followers did not really understand and get what Jesus was saying throughout His ministry, we today do not really get all that God is telling and revealing to us through His Word.

Jesus even told His followers that after He would “rise from the grave,” that He was going to give them the Holy Spirit. This happened 50 days later after He did actually rise from the grave. It would be the Holy Spirit who would come forth and fill them with His truth and understanding of all that Jesus did and all that He will continue to do until He returns one more time. Yes, that is what we are still told by the Spirit to this day. We are saved through the blood of Jesus that was shed at His death, but we have also been given eternal life through His resurrection and we have the blessed assurance that He will return - soon.

Until Jesus does come back again to take His place upon the throne of this earth, we have been given the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit’s function now to come and dwell within every one of His believers to help us, to teach us, and to lead and guide us throughout this life.

However, we must all first believe what the first “evangelist” told the women who came to the tomb. That first “evangelist” was an angel who said that Jesus was not dead but was alive. Jesus was not in the tomb any more. He took the punishment of what death represented and banished it forever from those who would truly believe in everything that Jesus did. The next time we hear of or see of Jesus was **outside of the tomb**. He was alive!!!

We all must take that fact for what it is!!! Jesus is alive!!! We never see Him back in the tomb. What that tells us is that once we have accepted Jesus and believe in all that He did, we must never go back into that "tomb" of death and darkness that separated us from the Father, the Living God. We must never go back to that old lifestyle of sin and darkness for we are...alive!!! We have been "born again."

We are brand new creatures in Christ. That means that we are totally different than what we were prior to accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We are a totally new species of being. Each of us are now children of God, "...*old things are passed away. Behold all things have been made new.*" (2Corinthians 5:17)

This is what we remind ourselves of and celebrate each and every Resurrection Sunday (Easter Sunday). Every year, it is a reminder to us of who we truly are. We are not of this world but rather we are children of God. We are simply sojourning through this life. We are on a journey. A journey that will ultimately lead us to the entrance into the "Promised Land."

As we celebrate this Resurrection Sunday, if you know Jesus as your personal Savior and Lord, then rejoice in the fact that one day, when this life is over, you will enter into the gates of Heaven, that "Promised Land." If you have really never made that decision to truly believe and accept Jesus as your personal Savior (the One died for all your sins and rose from the grave) and your Lord (the One whom you love and follow after and in who you believe will come again) then I strongly encourage you to believe and accept Jesus as your Savior and Lord.

Trish and I rejoice with you and with all the true believers throughout this earth as we celebrate this coming Resurrection Sunday. Truly, it is "...*the day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*" (Psalm 118:24)