

Jesus is alive! Jesus took the punishment and died for the sins of all men and all women - everyone! He then rose again from the dead on the third day! AND... Jesus will come again! That is the crux and basis of what we

believe. It is the fundamental truth of our faith in Jesus Christ.

As we prepare, and then ultimately celebrate the most important event that ever had taken place upon this earth, we must never forget that there is much more than that of the events that took place 2000 years ago. Yes, we are to celebrate the fact that Jesus, the Son of man and the Son of God, rose from the grave. We must celebrate the fact that because Jesus rose from the dead, all those who believe in Him will also never die. Oh yes, we all will physically die once, but then we will go on and live forever and ever in eternity with God the Father, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

That is the basic fact of our salvation. We will all have eternal life with our God forever and ever. Jesus became the "first born" of many as the scripture tells us in Romans 8:29 and in other passages, "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Jesus, who was 100% God, came to earth, also as 100% man, so that this could take place. The above scripture tells us this as it states and declares that Jesus foreknew those who would believe in Him. Therefore, we would be predestined to be with Him in glory one day. It does not say that God selected those who would be His children but rather it declares that our God knew who would accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord even before they existed.

Yes, God, the Father and Jesus, as well as the Holy Spirit, knew and still knows those who will or those who will not, accept Jesus and what He did 2000 years ago. God knows who will choose to believe Him and His Word.

That brings us to the holiday that we are about to celebrate – Resurrection Sunday. Jesus died for the sins of the world on that Passover day 2000 years ago when the spotless Passover lamb was to be offered as the sacrifice for the people and their sin. Jesus was and is, that spotless Lamb of God.

He was crucified as He took the sins of all mankind, past, present and future. But... three days later, Jesus rose from the grave and from hell itself. The only sin that anyone is now held accountable for is their denial of the death **and** resurrection of Jesus. That is it!!! Do you believe???!!!

Jesus' death and resurrection is in all of the Gospel accounts. Why? It is because that is the basic fundamental truth of our faith. Jesus, was God. Jesus came in the flesh as the only God/Man (100% God and 100% man). He died on the cross as a man and He took all of our sin upon Him. He took the punishment for that sin as He took our place and went to the pit of hell for us.

But... three days later Jesus defeated the devil and death, both physical but more importantly spiritual death, and He rose from that death, that grave - hell itself. For our benefit, He became the first "born again man." He was God but He was also man and He was the only one who could truly take our place. He was the spotless "Lamb of God." Thank you, Jesus!!!

Those who believe are now children of God. Because Jesus lives, all those who believe in Him have the "God kind of life." They have life, true life, that spiritual life as a "new spirit creature," a child of God. They now have true life and life more abundantly. Why? It is because Jesus is risen!!!

Each of the Gospel accounts are quite clear in these same facts. It was the first day of the week. It was early and it was the women who were the first to discover that Jesus was not in the tomb. Please, read the following account that is in all four Gospels. (I just wrote out the sections where it tells us that Jesus had indeed – risen!!!)

Matthew 28:1-6 (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 <u>he is risen</u>"

Mark 16:1-6 (KJV) - "...And he saith unto them, Be not afraid: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: <u>he is risen</u>"

Luke 24:1-6 (KJV) - "...And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, **but is risen**"

John 20:1-10 and John 21:14 (KJV) - "This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was <u>risen from the dead</u>."

Yes, that is the Good News that we celebrate on this and every Resurrection Sunday – Jesus Christ was crucified; Jesus Christ has risen, but... never forget that <u>JESUS CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN!!!</u> Yes, Jesus is alive and He is coming back again!!! Let us never forget what the two angels who appeared when Jesus left His disciples tell us in Acts 1:9-11, "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

We rejoice with every believer on this day and we declare as the song below proclaims which was sung almost 35 years ago by Ron Kenoly but still rings true today, "Jesus is Alive." If you know it, why don't you just worship and sing it onto the Lord. I included a website address if you would like to listen or sing along with it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWY1ehKmZrI

JESUS IS ALIVE ©by Ron Kenoly

HALLELUJAH, JESUS IS ALIVE.

DEATH HAS LOST ITS VICTORY, AND THE GRAVE HAS BEEN DENIED

JESUS LIVES FOREVER HE'S ALIVE, HE'S ALIVE

HE'S THE ALPHA AND OMEGA THE FIRST AND LAST IS HE
THE CURSE OF SIN IS BROKEN AND WE HAVE PERFECT LIBERTY
THE LAMB OF GOD HAS RISEN HE'S ALIVE, HE'S ALIVE
HALLELUJAH, JESUS IS ALIVE

From Trish and I, we pray that you all have a blessed Resurrection Sunday.

Truly, Jesus has risen AND Jesus will come again.

God Bless You.