

TRINITY NEWS

Second Sunday of Easter 2014 Celebrating the Resurrection in the 21st Century

Last week, in Easter Sunday, we celebrated what some say a 'ridiculous claim' - "a dead man coming back to life. Not just that he was resuscitated, but that he was made alive again, and for eternity! And that he- Jesus is still alive today."

The truth of Christianity centers upon the reality of the resurrection. There are Christians who think that the resurrection is just a metaphor for the work that God can do in our lives. But I agree with Paul, who speaks for the early Christians when he writes, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is useless and so is your faith." He later says that if the resurrection didn't happen, "we (Christians) are to be pitied more than all men" (1 Corinthians 15). Why does the resurrection matter?

For a start, can we explain the existence of Christian Church without the resurrection? Surely, in Jesus' time not very many people can be 'talk out' about resurrection. He died a criminal's death and suffered the capital punishment. His first followers were ordinary folks, not influential people and they scattered and hid after Jesus died. But in the end all of his twelve disciples, except Judas Iscariot (who killed himself) were executed because they continued to preach that Jesus resurrected from the dead, he is the Christ, the Son of God.

Similarly, this group of Jews changed in the way they observed Sabbath day. For many centuries, they had kept the Sabbath on Saturday. But within a few years, the Jews who worshipped Jesus were observing the Sabbath on what they now called, "The Lord's Day," which was the day of the resurrection. What could make them take such a sharp turn from their cultural practice? What's the point?

We go back to the message; they are people who have seen the resurrected Jesus, and they were empowered by the Holy Spirit promised by Jesus (Acts 1:8) who came at Pentecost. This resulted in their experience of a transformed life filled with the Spirit of God. Resurrection matters because it does not only it points to Jesus as the Christ, the Savior of the world but He is the divine Son of God who bestows the Holy Spirit to everyone who then experience "new life" in His name (John 20:31).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is important because “it demonstrated that God accepted Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf. It proves that God has the power to raise us from the dead. It guarantees that those who believe in Christ will not remain dead, but will be resurrected unto eternal life”. - this is what we celebrate about, this is our blessed hope!

Deacon Melvin Bautista

THIS WEEK:

April 28, Monday.

- Vestry Meeting, 6:30pm, Rectory.

April 30, Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Bible Study, 7:30pm, Parish Office

May 1, Thursday.

- LABOR DAY. Legal non-working holiday. Office closed.

REMINDER: May 9, Friday

- Deacon Melvin’s ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests, 10:00am

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

- Acts 2:14a, 36-47; Psalm 116; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35
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