

NEWSLETTER 2023-2

To: My Fellow Saints and Well Wishers

Date: April 3, 2023

Re: **Hope and Victory Despite the Challenges! (1 Chron. 29:11-12; Eph. 6:13)**

Beloved, it is such a privilege sharing with you to the glory of God; may **all** that we do, honor and glorify the King of Glory (Psa. 24:7-10).

“And he shall say to them, ‘Hear, O Israel: Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, do not be afraid, and do not let your heart tremble or be terrified because of them; for the LORD your God is He who goes with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you’” (Deut. 20:3-4 NKJV).

As we all continue to face challenging situations one after the other I am led to share two poems, the first one, written by yours truly which was laid on my heart March 5, 2023 and the other by C. S. Lewis. Before I present these poems, I will make a few brief statements relating to Easter and the victory that it assures us. It is my sincere prayer that you will be blessed.

In Christian tradition, the essence of **Easter** is built upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which represents His victory over death and the promise of eternal life to all who have committed their lives to Him. Unfortunately, because of the secularization of the Universal Church, we have lost focus of the essence of these periods that commemorate what was set apart to the honor and glory of God for what He has done for us and we are now more focused on how we can be entertained. I must quickly note that living God’s way is **NOT BORING**, etc. (see Psa. 16:11; 126:5-6; 132:16; etc.). I may use this thought a lot but it’s worthwhile repeating: **Oh! that millions and millions more would “taste and see that God is good”!!** (See Psa. 34:8).

To many, all over the world, **Easter** involves certain rituals and sad to note some of these activities have absolutely nothing to do with the Scriptural significance of **Easter** and even worse some are coming from evil origins. **The key message of Easter is hope—faith in the future, and a new beginning all because of the mercy and grace of God!**

The cross marks a **new beginning**, a new way, man’s hope is now found and secured in the Resurrected One! The One who conquered death and hell!! Beloved! If He (Jesus Christ) conquered, we can be conquerors, no matter all that Satan continuously unleashed on us the Saints of God! Satan will always attack but the fact remains that we are more than conquerors through the Resurrected, King of kings and Lord of lords (**Rev. 1:18; 17:14; Rom. 8:28-39, NB v. 37**).

Unfortunately, so many celebrate the **Easter** celebration focusing each year as if Christ die afresh for each year’s celebration. The reality is Jesus Christ will not be literally being crucified

on the cross each “Good Friday.” “. . . **knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He, He lives to God” (Rom. 6:9-10 NKJV).**

Our world, to a large extent, is characterized by controversies, callousness, confusion, corruption, carnal cravings and pursuits, Christ-less-living and suchlike manner of living. Many celebrate **Easter** but have no desire to even associate with what the work of Jesus Christ accomplishes and offers to mankind.

At the time Jesus Christ came (Matt. 1-2; Luke 1-2; John 1; etc.) life was dismal, divisiveness was transparent, discrimination prevailed and the list goes on and on but God was and is in control He is still LORD of ALL!! Beloved, no matter what is happening and will yet come to pass (Matt. 24; 2 Tim. 3; etc.) **our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness!!! All other ground is sinking sand!!!**

The Hymn: “**I Know Who Holds My Hand**” (Partial quote)

I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day.
I don't borrow from its sunshine for its skies may turn to grey.
I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said.
And today I'll walk beside Him, for He knows what is ahead.

Chorus

Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand
But I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.

Because of what Christ has done for us we are secured, we have hope, we have a future in Jesus Christ! At this time, I can only, briefly list a few pointers relevant to our victory in Christ, without comments:

1. The law was given by Moses but grace came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17; Rom. 10:4; etc.).
2. In the process of time God spoke to mankind through various means in these last days has spoken through Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:1-4; Heb. 1:1-3; etc.).
3. Today we hear about different alternatives to God but there is **ONLY ONE WAY TO GOD . . . THAT IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST!!** (Rom. John 14:6; Acts 4:12; etc.).
4. We owed a debt that we could not pay and Jesus Christ paid a debt that He didn't owe!! Christ on the cross paid the ultimate price for the sin of us **ALL!!** (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18-20; etc.). **Beloved that fundamental factor of the “Easter Account” must NOT be forgotten, nor ignored!! Through Jesus Christ man can be free from the bondage of sin and its consequences!!!** (1 Peter 4:1-2; 1 John 3:6-7; etc.).
5. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a key factor sustaining and maintaining our faith (this was also noted above) (1 Cor. 15, **NB Vv. 19-20**; etc.).

Oh, Beloved! Because He lives we can face tomorrow . . . NO MATTER WHAT LIES AHEAD!! Oh, Beloved, we are going on with Jesus the “Way Maker”!! He is able!! (2 Tim. 1:12). Indeed, difficult days are here (2 Tim. 3); we must not consider it strange when overtaken by “fiery trials (1 Peter 4:12-14); we may shed tears, overcome with sorrow **but joy will come!!** (Psa. 30:5); we may be hated, reviled, lied about, etc., **but let us rejoice and be glad in Jesus Christ!!** (Matt. 5:10-12; Rom. 8:17; etc.); etc. Beloved, the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a fundamental factor on which we stand!! **Nothing that we go through or will go through is strange to Christ!! He went through it all and come out victorious!!** (John 16:33; 1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 17:14; etc.)

POEMS

“Trials and Tribulations Only Make Us Stronger!”

By Bishop K. Wright—March 5, 2023.

Trials and tribulations by Satan will be experienced,
Satan will create havoc, distresses, etc. but eventually he will be eternally silenced,
Beloved, when the enemy comes in like a flood,
Have no fear, Jesus covers us with His precious blood.

When Satan comes fuming like a raging destructive tempest,
Jesus lifts the load, breaks **all** yokes, still the storm and gives sweet rest,
Whenever it hurts and hurts, whenever you weep and have grieved,
There is someone who cares, who is always near, you will be relieved.

Fiery trials and tribulations you must bear but press along saints, press along,
In Jesus Christ, despite adverse/prevaling situations, we have joy and an eternal song,
So lift up your heads, Oh, you gates, and the King of glory will come in,
Nothing shall separate us from Christ’s love; in Him we are sure to win!

Again, I assure you: when Satan comes like a flood, with Jesus Christ, have a little talk,
Jesus Christ is our all in all; in Him our strength will be renewed; we shall mount up like eagles
and we will run and not be weary, and we will not faint as we continue on this Pilgrim’s journey
our Home Bound walk,
In this physical life, weeping may be experienced for a while,
However, Jesus will and is able to keep what we have committed (to Him) to the very last mile.
Read Eph. 6:1-10.

C. S. Lewis 1942

“Satan: ‘I will cause anxiety, fear and panic

I will shut down business, schools, places of worship and sports events

I will cause turmoil,”

“Jesus: ‘I will bring together neighbors restore the family unit,

I will bring dinner back to the kitchen table.

*I will help people slow down their lives and appreciate what really matters.
I will teach My children to trust Me and not their money and material resources.”*
(NOTE: Emphasis mine)

The Hymn: Because He Lives

Partial Quote

*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.*

1 Chron. 29:11-12 NKJV

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, The power and the glory, The victory and the majesty; For all that is in heaven and in earth is yours; Yours is the kingdom O LORD, And You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, And You reign over all. In Your hand it is to make great And to give strength to all.”

1 Cor. 15:19-21 Amplified Bible

“If we who are [abiding] in Christ have hope only in this life and that is all, then we are of all people most miserable and to be pitied. But the fact is that Christ (the Messiah) has been raised from the dead, and He became the firstfruits of those who fallen asleep [in death]. For since [it was] through a man that death [came into the world, it is] also through a Man that the resurrection of the dead [has come].”

Also read Ephesians 6:10-18, NB v. 13.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Psalm 22 Part C and 23 will be uploaded to the website (livingwaterstudies.com) sometime in April and not later than the first week of May (2023). I am in process of developing lesson on Psalm 24 which will be loaded to the website late May to early June.

As you know due to my surgery in December (2022) and I was in process of preparing lessons for Altar Workers Training my normal process of lesson development was temporary disrupted. At this time, I can promise you that normalcy is in process although I do have additional lessons to be revised for the altar workers study course. We will also be making adjustments to All Altar Workers Lessons currently on the website so that no one will feel as if they are not free to use these lessons; we are putting that for summer as my son (who takes care of the website) has an unusual schedule. The necessary adjustments will be made and all to the glory of God!!

Please feel to use the altar workers' lessons you will find great lessons in them to enhance one's overall spiritual life. You have my permission to use them . . . it is **all** to glorify God!! **As a reminder the problem using cell phones to access the website using Google Chrome was taken care of and is functioning properly.**

Your prayers are genuinely appreciated and needed!! And let us faithfully pray for others!!

You are sincerely loved and may God continue to richly bless you and your wonderful family. Beloved, "To the work to the work! we are servants of God, Let us follow the path that our Master has trod; With the balm of His counsel our strength to renew!!" Let us occupy until He comes!!

Yours-in-Christ

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