

EASTER BLESSING 2018

Death had struck again and claimed another victim and this time it was the so-called “Messiah.” Hell was rejoicing and the demons shrieking with delight. He who had raised Jairus’ daughter from the dead (Mark 5); He who had raised the widow’s son from death (Luke 7); He who had raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11); was now dead.

However, they had forgotten what he had said “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” John 2:19. They had forgotten, He said “. . . he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day” Matthew 16:21. Somehow they could not reconcile in their finite minds the idea of a crucified Messiah. His death only represented for them broken dreams, dashed hope and unfulfilled promises.

The Scriptures indeed tell of a crucified Messiah, but it also proclaims most positively the message of the actual literal bodily resurrection of the historical Jesus from the dead. It is notable that the climax of the gospel narratives does not end with Good Friday, it goes beyond the tomb to Easter Sunday. It states, “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?” Luke 24:26. It seemed like death had won until three days later!

Therefore, like the Early church we refuse to proclaim the message of Good Friday without balancing it with the glorious message of the resurrection. Jesus indeed died but he rose again from the dead! The crucifixion tells of God’s amazing love, but the resurrection reveals His transcendent power to save us and to give us a lively hope. As His redeemed people we remain eternally grateful and ecstatic! We sing with boundless joy: He arose, he arose, Hallelujah Christ arose!

Like Peter we declare “Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” 1 Peter 1:3. Thank God the tomb is empty, and Jesus is Risen, glorified and ascended! With great anticipation we now look forward to His return! We rejoice with great rejoicing this Easter!

Bishop & Lady Greenaway