

WEEKLY REFLECTION

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ...For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Eph. 3:4-5a, 8-9)

The story of Easter is the story of a God who loved us so much, He did the impossible.

He sent His beloved Son on a rescue mission for all mankind.

He was scorned, betrayed, and mocked all the way to the cross.

He subjected Himself—the Creator at the hands of His creation—to unbearable abuse.

He was separated from His Father when he took on the sins of all mankind, and He died for us to come home.

But the good news of Easter Sunday is that *it doesn't stop there*.

The apostle Paul tells us that by sending Jesus on this rescue mission and by dying on the cross, God rescued us from the domain of darkness. He brought us instead to the kingdom of His beloved Son. In Him, we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:13-14)—an act that no one apart from God could accomplish, a gift given freely by Him and Him alone.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is the most powerful act in human history, but it also doesn't stop there! We read last year of Jesus' ascension at the beginning of Acts, after which He sent to us the gift of His Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), He who now dwells in His children as He sanctifies us day by day to be more like Him.

There is a time to grieve, but also a time to rejoice and celebrate because of what Christ has done—so will you listen and obey, church? And allow the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus to move and transform you?

QUESTIONS

QUESTION ONE:

Were you ever lucky enough to skip a long line, receive a free travel (e.g. hotel room or plane seat) upgrade, or get “VIP” treatment that you absolutely did not earn or expect? What was the story behind that experience? How did you feel, knowing that you hadn’t earned that upgrade but were privileged to experience it?

QUESTION TWO:

Even though Jesus paid the price for us on the cross, why do the children of God often default back to living life without Him? Why do we fall back into old habits such as working to earn our worth or to prove our value, or trying to control our entire lives by ourselves? What do you think triggers those habits (e.g. career ladder, financial security, social standing etc.)?

QUESTION THREE:

Try to identify the habit from the previous question that you fall back into the most, and any triggers that might aid the process. What does it look like for you to surrender both of those things to God? What does it look like, practically speaking, for you to enter into those situations not as someone trying to earn their own way, but as a redeemed and beloved child of God?