



CELEBRATE THE RISEN CHRIST!

Mary Mayko 1995

Thanks God for celebrations! I am so glad He ordained special times of remembering and celebrating! One of these special celebrations is Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday!

When Christ died upon the Cross, it seemed all was lost, yet within in very short time, only three days, Christ had risen from the grave! What joy it brought to those who met Him that Sunday morning! In this day, when we attend Good Friday Services, we reflect on the sacrifice Jesus made in our behalf. It is a rather solemn and sobering moment when we consider all He suffered for our sakes, that we might have Eternal Life! Yet, just as Mary Magdalene and the Disciples rejoiced when they realized Christ really was alive, we too, can celebrate with joy and lift our hearts in praise and thanksgiving unto our Risen Savior!

The Bible has much to say about remembering or building memorials to remind that we are to come unto Him with celebrations in our hearts. When we gather in fellowship with families or in our local churches, we are to enjoy these times as a blessing from our Lord! Are we truly committed to building good memories and memorials as a testimony of our love for the Lord?

Easter should be a season of reflecting and rejoicing as we celebrate the Risen Christ!

Luke 24:34 "The Lord is risen indeed!" Not only did he rise from the dead, He ascended up into Heaven and has promised that one day he will return and gather us unto Him!

Luke 24:51-52 "And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He departed from them and was carried up into Heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy!"

Are you looking forward with great joy and expectation that Christ will return soon? Perhaps even while we are yet alive! Amazing possibility!



SOME GOOD POINTS TO REMEMBER!

Creation: Col.1:16-17 - By Christ all things were created.

Cradle: Luke 2:10-12; Isa. 7:14 9:6-7 - The Son of God became flesh for us!

Child: Luke 2:21, 41-52 - He grew in wisdom and obedience and so should we!

Carpenter: Matt.13:55 - First born sons followed their father's profession, Jesus labored, so should we!

Christ: Matt.3:13 - Public Ministry as a Teacher/Preacher. Matt.5:2 - Miracle worker. John 15:14 - Friend. Matt.8:7 - Identified as the "Christ, the Son of the Living God."

Cross: The very reason Christ came was to die for our sins. He is our Resurrected Redeemer! Tit. 2:14; Rom. 3:24-25; Luke 24:46-47.

Communion: 1Cor.10:16, 11:24-25. - Remembers Christ's Death, Burial, and Resurrection. The Bread represents His Broken Body for our healings. The Wine represents His Blood, shed to forgive our sins and cleanse us until He Returns.

Church: Col.1:27 - Christ in us, Hope of Glory! Matt.16:18; Eph. 5:23-25.

Coming Again! He IS coming again! John 13:1-3; Acts 1:11; 1Thess.4:13-18.



“THE PRIZE ~~ IT’S GONE!”

Rev. J Kehl Golding

“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.” 1 Cor.9:24

Football fan or not, we recently experienced a piece of history, right before our eyes!

Of course, I speak of Super Bowl XLII . The Patriots entered the game following a remarkable season. In fact, the only team in NFL history to treat their fans to a season of 18 wins ~ yes, every game without a loss!!

Week after week, the offensive played its’ best, picking up points. Game after game, the defensive took care of the opponent, making sure the Patriots came out on top. It didn’t matter how far they were behind, at the last minute the team “pulled it off”, and the victory was theirs.

Then came the “Big One”~~ February 3 2008, the undefeated team met the under dogs, the “wild card” team, the New York Giants. The Patriots had already defeated them in the 2007-2008 season ~~ no problem!

But, their *opponent* had done their homework, studied the tapes, and had “a plan”! After an entire season of “working out, discipline in every area, producing win after win, the Patriots lost “the Big One!!!”

The Prize was gone~~ the reward was not theirs! A score of 17-14 left the Patriots in the dust and the ring was gone!! All the glory of a totally victorious season was gone! Heartache, hurt, and defeat was theirs permanently! No going back, in the end the Prize was *GONE!*

As I contemplated this, all I could think of, was how picturesquely this drama played out in a Biblical principle.

St. Paul explains it far better than I can in *1 Corinthians 9:19-27*.

“For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

To them that are without the law, as without law, [being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,] that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

A CASTAWAY!!! Rejected!! The hope of everlasting life with Jesus Christ gone!!

Life can be very frustrating! Very discouraging! Our spouses, our children, the job, the pursuit of the ever elusive dream! Consider some folks in the Scriptures that found themselves in this position.

There was Philip, walking with Jesus, observing Him each day – yet confused when Jesus compares Himself with the Father. [John 14:5-9]

Or Peter with the marvelous statement: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God." [John 6:69] BUT, when under pressure of authority, and fearful, he denies knowing Jesus, not once, but three times!!! [John 18:15-27]

Then there is Thomas, ready to die for Christ [John 11:16] Walked with Him year after year in His ministry. But so frustrated and discouraged by the DEAD Christ he refuses to believe He could be ALIVE, *and* he clearly states *his* terms for believing in such a thing! [John 20: 24-25]

What about John the Baptist! Read Christ's testimony concerning the man. Think of it! Matthew 11:9-13 "Among them that are born of woman, there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist"!!!

Yet, discouragement hit him when imprisoned by Herod. Weeks in a dark dungeon, little or no food, water, or sunlight, took its toll on him and he reacts! He, of all people knew of Christ's supernatural birth. He, John the Baptist was the one that declared Him to be the Lamb of God. [John 1:29, 36] Now in this dark hour, he is asking, "Are You the Christ, or do we look for another?" [John11:1-7]

Each of these people, and many more in the Scriptures needed a fresh, new touch by the LORD. They had to confess their need for His power to restore them!

During this Easter season, a time of reflecting, examine your own commitment to the LORD, your daily walk with Him. Seek His Resurrection power for your own life. Don't allow your opponent, the enemy of your soul, rob you of the LAST and GRAND PRIZE ~~ eternal LIFE with Christ. Don't become a defeated CASTAWAY with the BIG ONE gone!!

**Have a holy and Blessed Easter Season as you walk with Him!
Rev. J Kehl Golding**



“WATCHERS”

By Mary Mayko

Matt.26:41 LB “Keep alert and pray. Otherwise temptation will overpower you. For the spirit is willing, but how weak the body is!”

Matt. 27: 55 LB “And many women who had come down from Galilee with Jesus to care for Him, were watching from a distance.”

Watchers! Most of us would have to say we are “watchers” every day! Moms watch after their children. We watch for “bargains”! We watch TV or Sports Events. We watch each other! Some watch for an opportunity to take advantage of others! But others watch for an opening to minister to someone. People in the Military or on Guard Duty have to be alert or watchful at all times.

I found some interesting aspects of the word “watch” in the Vines Dictionary. In the Bible angels were sometimes called watchers, also messengers, ministers and deputies. They are sent to guard, protect, observe and preserve the Lord’s servants, as well as many other functions. To watch also means to “behold” or look with purpose and intent! The Bible exhorts us to “watch and pray”.

With these facts in mind take a look at some of the watchers at the Cross of Christ. Angels had watched over Jesus from the time of his conception! Now they stood ready to act if Jesus gave a command to them! Matt 26:53 says He could have called legions of angels that numbered at least 72,000 angels if He desired to do so. Jesus did accept help from them when it was appropriate, remember His testing in the Wilderness before He started His public ministry and after His prayer in the garden before the Cross, just two examples of angels being watchers over Jesus.

Of course, there were many watchers at the scene of the cross. Some were probably in the crowd that cheered Christ as He entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday! Were any of them present when the mob cried out “Crucify Him!” when asked who should live and who should die by Pilate. All it takes is a few instigators and others come running to join the violence!

Angry and jealous Religious Leaders jeered. Two criminals on either side of Jesus watched but had entirely different view points! One rejected Christ, the other cried for mercy! Roman soldiers ignored His suffering as they gambled for His garments! A Centurion watched with fear as he recognized Jesus as the “Son of God!” The women watched with sorrow and compassion. Most of the Disciples probably stood in back of the crowd, fearing for their own lives!

Watchers at the Cross! All their lives were changed forever that day! Today, we too, are challenged by the Cross! How will our view of it shape our lives? Will we mock, scorn or blaspheme the Holy One? Some act indifferent to the cross. Will we cry out for His mercy and ask His Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and change our lives? What kind of a watcher are you? Check it out! Your life depends on it!

1 Timothy 4:15-16 NIV “Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch you life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”