

EVANGEL VOICE

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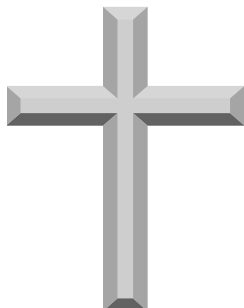
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"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:6 (NIV)



THE RESURRECTION, AN ETERNAL VICTORY

Someone has rightly declared that Christianity has two major symbols, the **Cross** and the **Tomb**, and both are empty. Surely, the reality of this statement, Jesus' *Death* and *Resurrection*, has established an overwhelming and eternal victory for the people of God. However, the question remains; are we willing to acknowledge and immerse ourselves in the Person and substance of those extraordinary events to the honor and glory of God, our Father, whose image we bear and whose breath resides in us? The term, Resurrection, in its simplest form means to restore life to something, or some one, that has died. In short, the dead has become alive. In order to expand our conception and understanding particularly of Jesus' Resurrection, I want to briefly consider three elements of it.

First, the **Authenticity** of the Resurrection often comes under extensive scrutiny even to the point of absolute denial. The witnesses to the Resurrection are convincing. All four Gospel writers record the event mentioning numerous eye witnesses to the empty tomb (Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20). Jesus, Himself, prophesied the fact of it in the context of answering an inquiry from the Jews (John 2:19; cf. Matt. 26:61; 27:40). Dr. Luke reported that the resurrected Christ *presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs during forty days* (Acts 1:3). The Resurrection was at the very center of all the apostolic preaching and teaching (Peter, Acts 2:24, 32; Paul, I Cor. 15:4-8). Finally, the famous Jewish historian, Josephus, who was no friend of the Christians, states that Jesus appeared "to live again" to His followers (Antiquities of the Jews, Book XVIII, ch. 3). Yes, the Resurrection of Jesus is authentic. If it were possible to prove it untrue, the whole fabric of Christianity crumbles and we have lived a lie. No small wonder then, it is attacked so vigorously.

Second, The **Authority** of the Resurrection has its source specifically in the atoning work of Jesus. The resurrected Christ announces to His disciples; *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth, go therefore and make disciples of all nations . . .* (Matt. 28:18-19). Paul says that if Christ has not risen from the dead, our preaching and faith are empty and *we are of all men most pitiable* (I Cor. 15:17-19). Jesus, responding to Martha, announces: *I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die* (John



FROM THE DESK OF
THE PRESIDENT

(Continued on page 2)

THE RESURRECTION, AN ETERNAL VICTORY

(Continued from page 1)

11:25-26). The Resurrection establishes an unshakeable foundation for our faith. As a result, the Holy Spirit fills us with strength to sustain that faith, and power to demonstrate and confirm the transforming message of the Gospel with His supernatural presence. It is in this authority we rejoice with confidence over our eternal future *looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ* (Tit. 2:13). Paul, recognizing the authority of Jesus' Resurrection, declares his most earnest desire to the Philippian Church, *that I might know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings* (Phil. 3:10).

Third, The **Awesomeness** of the Resurrection and all it entails seems to defy description. Jesus, during a very special time with his disciples, prophesied to them saying: *Because I live, you will live also* (John 14:19). They probably didn't have a clue what He was talking about, but after the Ascension and Pentecost they understood His words (cf. John 2:22). Peter's preaching emphasized the fact of the Resurrection and all that it accomplished (Acts 2:31ff; 3:14ff.). The Bible tells us that because of that divine moment, every enemy has been put under the feet of Jesus even that last enemy, death (I Cor.15:25-26). Paul confesses that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him (Phil. 4:13). The Apostle would go on to say that Jesus has become the firstfruits of those who have died meaning His Resurrection assures all believers of their own resurrection.

You may be asking as you read this article, what does all of this mean? Here is just a sampling of what Jesus' Resurrection has accomplished for all mankind.

- (1) The Resurrection is the greatest manifestation of the supernatural power of God the world has ever known.
- (2) Every barrier to man's reconciliation back to God has been broken down.
- (3) Every enemy has been conquered.
- (4) This unworthy mortal is able to put on immortality.
- (5) This corruptible is able to put on incorruption.
- (6) Death is swallowed up in victory, as Paul so cogently inquires; *Death, where is your sting? Grave where is your victory?*
- (7) Jesus describes Himself; *I am He who lives and was dead and behold, I am alive forevermore. And I have the keys of Hades and Death* (Rev. 1:18)

The Apostle Paul issues a final pronouncement of the majesty and glory of Jesus' Resurrection by first presenting a joyous declaration of thanksgiving; *But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (I Cor. 15:57), followed by his personal stirring admonition to the Corinthian church; *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord* (I Cor. 15:58). In every sense of the word, the Resurrection is truly an **Eternal Victory** for every one of us, and for that we praise God. As we contemplate the vast expanse of that victory and all it encompasses, we are reminded again and again of King David's worshipful expression of his heart cry; *Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered* (Psa. 68:1). Hallelujah!

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." (Matthew 28:5-7 NIV)

ETS IS CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF IT'S 25TH ACADEMIC YEAR!



Be sure to watch upcoming newsletters and the website for more details...

...DID WE MENTION THE NEW ETS WEBSITE COMING SOON?

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS IN MAY.

GRADUATION

ETS GRADUATION, JUNE 11, 2006, CHURCH AT NORTHERN VIRGINIA

THIS YEARS GRADUATES ARE:

HARRY ENGEN
SETHIA JOHNSON
SOO WILSON

SHANE HEATH
VICTORIA ROCCO

PRAISE & PRAYER REPORT

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness for sustaining Evangel for 25 years! A special “thank you” to all of our many friends who have prayed for us and supported us during this time. Please pray for God’s continued provision an grace for the upcoming 25th academic year.

The Reichards are moving! Dr. Reichard and Martha have sold their home in New Market and are moving to Harrisonburg...within three miles of the office!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Porter Graves (current student), and his wife, Angela, on the birth of their fourth son, Eli Brenden, born March 10, 2006, and also on his recent installation as Vision Pastor (Sr. Pastor) at Hope Community Worship Center (Culpeper Church of the Nazarene). Please keep them in your prayers.

?NEED TITLE HERE?

Harry Engen (2006 Graduate), takes mission teams to Guatemala three times a year, to work at his daughter’ ministry called Mi Refugio, a school for poor children. Teams from six different churches in Pennsylvania and Maryland participated in the February 2006 trip. Part of the team worked at construction on the school property in San Pedro, and the other half formed a medical team that went out daily to remote Myaan villages to provide medical care and distribute clothing. Over the five days, 680 family units received medical assistance. Some family units had up to ten children! Also, approximately 5000 articles of clothing were distributed. God blessed the trip abundantly! (Continue to pray for Harry and the members of these mission teams as they are about God’s work).

ADDITIONAL CLASS ADDED FOR SPRING REGISTRATION

O-421 Intro to Old Testament Prophets, a detailed, introductory study of the Major and Minor Prophets with emphasis on authorship, date, purpose and message, and any particular problems involved. (3hrs.) The class will be held in Harrisonburg on the weekends of May 12, 13 and June 2, 3. Please contact the office to register.

LOOK FOR FALL REGISTRATION INFORMATION IN THE MAY NEWSLETTER


One of the highlights for Fall is the opportunity to experience the teaching of Dr. Elmer Towns. Dr. Towns, from Liberty University, has graciously agreed to join us once again, teaching a course on prayer. He will be teaching from his new book, *How to Pray When You Don't Know What To Say*. Due to the significance of the topic of prayer for each of our lives, we are expecting increased enrollment in the class. Course dates are the weekends of Nov. 17, 18 and Dec. 1, 2. Please contact the office to reserve your place in this class. We will be blessed!

DIRECTED STUDY COURSES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER REGISTRATION

T-101DS Basic Christian Doctrines I
 T-102DS Basis Christian Doctrines II
 T-103DS Basic Christian Doctrines III
 T-463DS The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
 C-101DS Church History I

C-102DS Church History II
 N-101DS New Testament Introduction
 N-102DS Life of Christ
 N-325DS Life & Theology of Paul
 O-101DS Old Testament Introduction

*He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.
 (Matthew 28:6a NIV)*



EVANGEL THEOLOGICAL
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*The Seminary with a
 difference*



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