

Theme for 2021

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT; WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD!

‘They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.’

“I have commissioned them to represent me just as you commissioned me to represent you. And now I dedicate myself to them as a holy sacrifice so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by your truth.” “And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message. I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one. I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me. For the very glory you have given to me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy. You live fully in me and now I live fully in them so that they will experience perfect unity, and the world will be convinced that you have sent me, for they will see that you love each one of them with the same passionate love that you have for me.”

John 17:18-23 The Passion Translation (TPT)



This Week’s Thought – April 4, 2021 **Happy Easter/Resurrection Sunday!**

“I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.” Isaiah 50:6 (NIV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” The sufferings of Jesus cannot be totally comprehended, but one thing is clear: Jesus experienced voluntary suffering for all mankind! He offered Himself as a sacrifice on behalf of the human race, and it was a volitional act on His part. He willfully submitted to the will of His heavenly Father, which meant suffering. His heartache and mistreatment were the will of His Heavenly Father. (Mark 8:31-33)

Jesus submitted to this suffering only because He first submitted to God. Ironically, those committing these hideous crimes were the very ones who could benefit from its results. They could have embraced His atonement for sin and received His resurrected life. Jesus carried this burden on our behalf, and that of all mankind. It was not an exercise in how much pain could be endured by one person. It was pure love, as Jesus loved you all the way to the cross. *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”* (John 15:13)

Without the love of God, the events at the cross would not have happened. The dreadful day’s activities would have culminated in the death of just another good man. Death would have been the end.

But Jesus conquered death, sin, and Satan so that you and I could do the same! His pain was our gain. He bore the cross so we could bear our cross. The way of the cross is the path to redemption. He bought you and me from the servitude of sin. No longer are you bound up in yourself and others, for He has set you free. He has set us free! We are exonerated by faith because He endured the cross, despised its shame, and is now interceding on our behalf at the right hand of His heavenly Father. (Hebrews 12:2)

This is cause for celebration. God really does use all things for His good on behalf of those who love Him. (Romans 8:28) Therefore, allow gratitude to well up and burst forth from your heart. You can because of the great love of God exhibited in the sufferings of Christ Jesus. He suffered for you. Can you do any less? You serve a suffering Savior. You worship a suffering Savior who rose from the dead so He could save you from the uttermost punishment. **He is RISEN and He LIVES!**

Application: What does it mean to you that Jesus accomplished what the Father sent Him to do? What does it mean to you that He didn’t turn away or give up because the Father’s will was too much to ask?

Words from the Master during your time of reflection this week: “Learn to live above your circumstances. This requires focused time with Me, *the One who overcame the world*. Trouble and distress are woven into the very fabric of this perishing world. Only My Life in you can empower you to face this endless flow of problems with *good cheer*. As you sit quietly in My Presence, I shine Peace into your troubled mind and heart. Little by little, you are freed from earthly shackles and lifted up above your circumstances. Rest in My Presence, *receiving Joy that no one can take away from you.*” (John 16:33; Psalm 42:5; John 16:22)

Yours in Christ, Pastor King