

The Many R's of Easter

Psalm 46:1-2; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

The book of Acts is a continuation of the book of Luke and the book of Acts does not end. We continue to declare the works of the Holy Spirit. After watching a couple hours of pain and torture of the Passion and the point of the whole thing is the resurrection, victory over death and the grave. The whole point of Easter is the resurrection of Jesus but there is no resurrection without a death. The death had a purpose. Do we understand that? He is Risen!

There would be no Easter without a Resurrection. The women who went to the tomb left Rejoicing. He left us with a promise to come back for us. Are you Ready for His Return? Are you ready for the Rapture?

Let us be reminded that we need to make Jesus Christ our Refuge. Everyone needs a refuge, and everyone has a refuge but not all refuges are good ones. A refuge is a place to go where you will feel safe, a strong tower where the enemy can't get to you. What is your refuge? Is it the computer, the TV or maybe a relationship? Where do you run when you are stressed? That is your refuge. God wants to be your refuge. When you are stressed go to God, He has the answer. Anxiety and worry is unnatural for the Christian (Matt. 6). It is natural to trust in God. A child is born into a family trusting that all its needs will be taken care of; something has to happen to derail that trust. As His children we should have that same kind of natural trust.

What are the Results of choosing a wrong refuge? We experience Distance, Disappointment and Destruction. A biblical definition for depression or discouragement is constantly going to the wrong refuge. Psalm 46:1 tells us that our God is a refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Going to a different refuge brings distance between God and us. We will experience disappointment; it may not be immediate, but it will come. God created us and knows best what we have need of and He is best equipped to meet those needs. We can come to church and God can be in the house and we can think we are in His presence, but if our minds are on something else there is a distance created between us and Him. Is God our refuge and strength? Jesus' refuge and strength was God Himself, and that's how he could endure the cross. Focusing on another refuge bring distance, pursuing it will bring destruction (Prov. 14:12). Devotion is the opposite of divorce or separation. To avoid the latter do the former. Devote yourself to God, make Him your refuge.

The results of choosing the right refuge is strength. We can go through the most difficult situations because the joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh. 8:10). We will experience help. If we make Jesus our Lord and Saviour then God is a very present help because it is Jesus in us. When we make God your Refuge there is no need to fear 1 John 4:18. it's easy to serve God when things are going well but a time of testing will reveal if it's just empty words or not. The Lord allows the tests to prove what is on the inside. We need to walk the talk.

We often Remember what we should forget and forget what we should remember. Is. 43:18; Phil. 3: 13-14. we need to forget what is behind and press on. Ps. 106:11-13; Matt. 16:5-12 we often forget what God has done for us when remembering is what encourages

us. How many things can you remember? Today, more than any other day we remember the price that Jesus paid was costly (Rev. 12:11). Some of us are concerned that going to church costs us time, we don't want to be here long. There are brothers and sisters who are concerned that going to church may cost them their lives, yet they go. We need to remember to make it personal (Ex. 13:8). We can't depend on someone else's relationship with Jesus to get us through. Do you know Him personally? Jesus came and died to make it personal with you and me. We have one on one access to God. Will you meet with Him today? It's your choice.