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**Many, many will awake this morning to Easter Sunday, but also, and regrettably to many, many “activities” and “things” that have nothing to do with Jesus Christ and Him crucified and risen again the third day.**

As Born-Again people of God, we must always be ready to “rightly represent” and “communicate” the gospel of Jesus Christ to our families and friends in contrast to the world’s traditions and celebrations of these holidays. If there is anything that EVERY one of us, as children of God should be well-grounded and conversant in, it is the ability to present a clear and biblical witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially in times when the world is participating in “Christian Celebrations”. Our gospel witness should be expanding as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of God... what I mean by that is, all of the Holy Scriptures “post Genesis 3” until Gabriel appeared to Mary, points to the prophecy of “A Promised Man” who would come, who would redeem fallen man who had sinned against God in rebelling against His command. Man had succumbed to Satan’s temptation, and NOW he was in bondage to sin.

**Man’s short-lived innocence ended, he was now a sinner, separated from God, estranged from God, at enmity against God. But Adam’s sin didn’t just affect him.**

When Adam fell into sin, death was passed upon all of mankind; the image of God had been defaced from man’s soul; all of Adam’s children would come forth in sin. Sin and death was Satan’s scheme to ruin all of humanity. Romans 5:12

“Therefore, as by the offense of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation”; and... “by one man’s disobedience may were made sinners”

But immediately after the fall, God revealed the FIRST Prophecy and Promise that God would send a Man into the world to save fallen humanity from their sins and restore fallen sinners to a right standing with God; to RESTORE and RECREATE the image of God to fallen man’s soul.

God identified this “Promised Man” in His judgment of Satan, calling Him “HER SEED” or “THE SEED OF THE WOMAN”. Genesis 3:15

THIS MAN would “bruise” or as it means “crush” the serpent’s head, thereby defeating and destroying Satan’s dominion and tyrannical reign over fallen humanity.

THIS MAN would restore/reconcile fallen humanity to God!

From that time, (after the fall) Satan’s primary objective was to kill the “promised seed” and to prevent Him from coming into the world to free sinners from his captivity and kingdom. Genesis 4:8, 1 John 3:7-12

Throughout OT history, Satan tirelessly attacked the seed of the woman (or the righteous seed); that lineage of men that would eventually lead to the birth of Christ. But he continued to fail!

When Christ was born, Satan did his worst to kill Him, using Herod, and then Jesus' own countrymen. The Jews, who had for SO LONG waited for their Messiah, rejected Him; they were blinded from understanding many important prophecies concerning Him, and because of their unbelief and hard hearts, they refused their Promised Messiah and Deliverer.

John 1:10-11: "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received Him not"

But the Jews rejection of Christ would not prevent Him fulfilling the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 and many other prophecies concerning His Person, His life, and His atonement.

In every one of the sacrifices of the Old Covenant, the imagery of Christ was presented to the children of Israel, that their faith would lay hold of that One True Sacrifice; that perfect Lamb of God, who was without blemish and without post, who would come and give His life a ransom for sinners!

It would be in the sacrificial death of Christ, and in His perfect atonement that Satan would SUFFER the first of what would be FATAL BLOWS; KILL SHOTS to his Kingdom, to his reign, and to his dominion over fallen man.

In the cross of Christ, in the shedding of His life and blood, in His sufferings and death, LIKE a Mighty Man of Valor, Jesus, single-handedly trampled Satan's Kingdom! Justice was done upon Christ from His Father and His God, for fallen man's sins; now the way of redemption and salvation for sinners was open, the captives were freed, Satan's tyranny had ended!

Mark 15:33-37, John 19:30: Tetelestai! Victory! It is DONE!

Hebrews 2:14. The death of Christ effectively disarmed the wicked one's power!

**But the gospel message does not end with the death of Christ; if it does, we are still lost and dead in our trespasses and sins!**

The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is a historical/biblical fact, and a necessary component of the gospel message which must not be left out of it! Of the truth of the resurrection of Christ, there are many witnesses!

1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Luke 24:1-11

**We must never forget the resurrection of Jesus Christ; without it we have no gospel! For if Christ did not RISE from the dead, we have no hope of eternal life!**

Christian, you are NOT saved from your sins unless Christ rose from DEATH on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day according to the Holy Scriptures. If Christ is not risen, He did not destroy/conquer death, (called the last enemy), nor Satan who HAD the power of death!

A gospel that doesn't include the resurrection of Christ is a gospel that CANNOT SAVE! That is because it "wants" or "lacks" an essential truth about the message of Christ, which is necessary for EVERY believer to lay hold of and believe by faith!

In the sufferings and death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, we, (BY FAITH) see the guilt, penalty, and punishment of our sins being laid upon Christ. BY FAITH, we behold Him suffering the wrath of Almighty God in our stead; we see the Lamb of God dying for OUR SINS, for we are the guilty ones! In the resurrection of Christ, we SEE God's ABSOLUTE APPROVAL and ACCEPTANCE of His sacrifice/shed blood for our sins! In the resurrection of Christ, we are JUSTIFIED/FORGIVEN for all our sins in the sight of God. In Christ, we are redeemed, released, and saved to the uttermost.

Romans 4:25, 5:6-11

Understand, therefore child of God, in the death of Christ, we see the JUSTICE and WRATH of God against His Only Son for the sins of the world; in the resurrection of Christ, we behold God's approval of Jesus' perfect atonement; AND NOW there is true justification, imputed righteousness and forgiveness for every sinner that comes of Christ in repentance and faith! If Christ did not rise from the dead, we have no good news!

Acts 13:38-39, 1 Corinthians 15:12-26

**If there is anything that EVERY child of God should be well-grounded and conversant in, it is the ability to present a clear and biblical witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ:**

Especially in times when the world is participating in "Christian Celebrations".

Acts 1:1-3, 2:22-24, 3:13-15, Romans 10:9, 1 Peter 1:18-21

Now, He EVER LIVES to make intercession for us!

Romans 8:32-34, Hebrews 7:25

**Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is NOT a dead martyr, whose body is still lying in the grave, He is the Captain of our salvation, and a risen and victorious King who has defeated death and Satan, who HAD the power of death.**

There is so much to SAY and to TESTIFY of about the sufferings, the cross, and death of Christ; and there is so much TO SAY and to TESTIFY of about the RESURRECTION of Christ from the grave on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

THIS IS the MESSAGE given to us by our King to be testified of in the world; if you're a Christian, THIS IS TO BE YOUR MESSAGE!

Luke 24:46-48