



real answers *for* real life™

April 2011

Dear Friend,

This month we celebrate Easter. To the world, it is just another holiday, but to those who know Jesus Christ, it is the most significant day of the year and the single most pivotal day in history.

After being crucified and buried, Jesus rose from the dead, just as He said He would. The women who arrived at His tomb early that morning discovered it was empty. When Peter got word, he, along with John, raced to the tomb to see if it was true. Jesus was not there. He was/is alive!

Most of us get goose bumps when we sing of this great event each Easter Sunday. But the resurrection is much more than a nice feel-good story. **Jesus being raised to life is the very substance of the Christian faith. Without the resurrection, Christianity would be just another religion or empty philosophy.**

Listen to what the apostle Paul wrote concerning the resurrection's significance: "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14). **The validity of the Christian message and our assurance of eternal life hinges on this single event.**

Jesus said it best, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19). **Jesus was raised from the dead so that we too could be raised.** Salvation is being made alive together with Jesus. Without the resurrection, there is no eternal life.

The sad reality is that far too many Christians live as if salvation is nothing more than forgiveness of sins. "Christ died to forgive my sins", they say. And that's it. To know that our sins have been forgiven once and for all certainly is incredible news. **But the heart and soul of the Gospel message is life.**

Concerning salvation, this is what Paul wrote to the Colossian church:

*When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13, 14)*

As Paul so clearly stated, we were dead in our sins. We needed life. Until we know that we have been made alive, that the resurrected Christ lives in us, our Christian experience will be a struggle, one filled with frustration and failure. That certainly described me. As far as Christianity was concerned, I couldn't get my act together. I kept trying to make the old me godly. The more I tried the harder I fell. I finally gave up. It was then this passage of Scripture did its work in my heart

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What it taught me boggled my mind. And it still does. God made me alive together with Christ. The same power it took to raise Jesus from the dead, God directed toward me. I was raised spiritually to walk in the newness of life.

For many years, I was blind to the resurrected life of Christ. I did not know that He wanted to live His life through me. The Easter story had yet to become a reality in me.

Such was the case with Charles from Newark, OH. He recently wrote to us to share his story.

*I was saved at age 11 and then struggled for the next 32 years to gain God's acceptance through seeing either another "work" of grace or "trying" to keep the Law.*

*My wife's sister was going to be married in 1991. My wife flew to San Antonio, Texas, and while on that flight she met Bob George, and he gave her a signed copy of "Classic Christianity". I kept the book for the next 5 years without reading it. I had studied for the ministry and had many books that I had read and studied, but continued to struggle in my "keeping the Law" ways.*

*I had an accident on my job in 1996 and was off work for 6 months and began reading "Classic Christianity." My life in Jesus Christ came "alive".*

*I am having a weekly Bible study and am using Classic Christianity as our guide. People are coming alive in Jesus Christ. The word of God has become alive to us and others as we study together His Word.*

*We are now able to get your radio broadcast on a Christian station from Columbus, OH. 91.5 FM at 4:30 PM. Thank you for your faithfulness to God's Word.*

Although Charles was saved early in life, the fingerprints of Christ's resurrection were absent from his Christian experience. To him, Christianity was about "gutting it out" for



Jesus. He mustered up every ounce of human effort he could to please God and make himself acceptable in His sight. This approach doesn't work.

For Charles, something had to give. He was tired of the struggle. Something did give. Charles discovered the meaning of the resurrection and he came "alive." Jesus raised him spiritually when he was eleven, but Charles didn't experience the reality of the resurrection until much later in life. His story is not unique.

By proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the apostles turned the world upside down. Today, this same message continues to change the hearts and lives of those who respond to Him by faith.

God has given us the platform of radio to share the power of His resurrection. **In standing with us with your prayers, support and faithful gifts, you help us bring a message of hope and life to listeners the world over.**

As we celebrate His gift of life to us this Easter, I ask you to ponder this truth and send your love gift to People to People. This month, let your gift express your gratitude to the Lord; for without Him and His life in us, we would still be lost and without hope.

Because of the empty tomb, we can say with Peter, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

Countless listeners to our broadcast are waiting to understand and know the significance of the resurrection. **Thank you for helping us reach them so they too can know and experience His life.**

May this Easter be filled with joy for you and your family. As always, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Alive in Christ,



Bob Christopher

P.S. As our thanks for your gift of any amount we want to send you a copy of *This is Eternal Life*, explaining the incredible truth of John 17:3 – "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." Please check the appropriate box on the enclosed reply card to receive your copy.

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