



After Jesus' death and resurrection there were still so many questions the disciples would have loved to ask their Lord. As Jesus stood there on the mount where He would ascend into heaven, they could hold it in no longer: "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6 ESV). In essence they were saying, 'Jesus, we've been waiting for You to truly save us—are You going to do that now?'

The disciples didn't forget Jesus' cross or His subsequent resurrection from the dead. They just didn't quite understand how absolutely game-changing their Lord's victory over death and grave was for them and for their eternity. Their minds were set on things down here, on earth, in this life, for this time right now. And so often, our minds are set on the very same thing as those disciples!

We have beheld the cross of Jesus Christ, bowing before it on Good Friday. We had our moment of silent reflection as we remember Jesus' rest in the tomb on Holy Saturday. And we celebrated with Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs of joy on Easter Morn as the angel's message reminded us of all that Jesus has told us: Jesus died for our transgressions, and was raised for our justification! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

But what does that mean for me right now?

What do we want to be saved from? Family obligations, social interactions, community events, and the like all create a balancing act for us that makes it difficult for us to maintain sanity. In our down time we tune in to the events in the world at large, the tragedies, the horrors, the insane and the mundane and we can become overloaded and wondering, 'Where is Jesus in all this? Why hasn't He stopped the insanity? Will Jesus never come and stop this craziness?'

But He already has! Jesus' kingdom does reign right here and right now. Our Lord's kingdom of mercy

and peace has broken into our world of crazy and offers us the gentle reminder that this current life is not all that there is! Jesus offers you and me a true and certain eternal peace that is meant to give us an

anchor of peace in the midst of our daily chaos. Jesus gives you and me: Forgiveness, Life, and Salvation! And these gifts of grace impact our lives even now.

Forgiveness of sins means you are forgiven of all those things you did wrong in the midst of the chaos of the world, and this also includes being freed from all those sins that have been done to you by others in their pursuit of the world's goals. No more fear of what we have done or endured from others. We are free!

The **Life** Jesus gives us the life we enjoy here and now, yet it is also a life that will not die but live forever! This means you don't have just one shot to make this the best life possible; in fact, this life cannot be the best possible because we are living in a sin-filled world. What Jesus has prepared for us in eternity will far outshine all expectations! Jesus has promised it to us and He will do it!

And above all, Jesus has won for you eternal **Salvation!** You don't have to have everything in life figured out to save the planet, the people around you, or even the people in your own family. Jesus has done that work! Jesus died to save us from our sins, from the power of the devil, from the ways of this wicked world. Place your trust in Jesus, not in your efforts and works. Place all your concerns in Jesus' hands, and let your loved ones know that it is Jesus who has saved you all and gives you true, eternal peace and rest!

Jesus said, "*I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world!*" (John 16:33 ESV).

Jesus is our confidence and our hope, not just for the future, His peace is for you right now! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed... For you! Alleluia!

In Christ's service,
Rev Joel V. Kuhl, Pastor