

Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020
“Godly Lives”

Acts 10:34...43

Col 3:1-4

Jn 20:1-9

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Why are the Christian Churches packed, or at least very well attended, on Easter Sunday Morning? Could it be that, on this day, we acknowledge that our life does not end with the death of our body? Could it be to remind ourselves that there is much more to life than our present experience of it?

Unfortunately, most people in our Western World do not take death seriously, until they look death in the face – or are very old and breaking down physically. Then, most take death very seriously – and they want to prolong it at all costs – and for as long as possible! Many will go to extraordinary lengths to stay alive – And many others will refuse to let their loved ones go, even when there is no hope of recovery.

If we did take life and death seriously, the world would be a far better place than it is today. If people would investigate any information available about life after death, – their new knowledge would, in all likelihood, lead them to change. If they studied what great religious leaders and thinkers said about life after death, they might begin to behave differently. And if enough people truly changed their hearts and their lives, the world would be far different than what it has become!

Before the time of Jesus, some of the truly religious people hoped and believed that there was some kind of existence after death. But they had no proof. Most people lived as if their life here was all that there is. They served themselves. They did everything they could to further their own pleasure, power, and wealth, if they were well off. If they were poor, as most were, they did all they could to stay alive and survive the hardships of life!

Fortunately, Jesus came and changed everything. God sent His Son in our human flesh to teach us how to live so that we could transcend death. Jesus taught that there truly was far more to life than our present experience of it. There was infinitely more! But we had to prepare ourselves for that life. We had to change our behavior in the here and now to be able to inherit the best that the future had to offer!

Jesus taught that there are two kinds of existence after death – eternal happiness or eternal misery. Eternal happiness was for those who loved and served the Lord God of the universe while they were here. Eternal misery was for those who served themselves and disregarded what God asked of them. Eternal happiness was for those who lived godly lives – Eternal misery, for those who did not!

The way to live a truly godly life was to take seriously all that Jesus said and taught during his time with us on Earth. It is to take the Gospel seriously. It is to open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit whom Jesus sent to guide us in the present moment. This same Spirit will help us with the hard decisions we must make to live always in the godly way that we must!

Our world, our nation, our politics, our culture are in such a sorry state today, because so many really do not take life and death seriously. They care only about themselves and whatever serves them and, perhaps, a few others. Far too many practice a “token” religion that is little more than just for “show”. Many admit some kind of belief in God, but do not live godly lives.

Brothers and Sisters, we all struggle with personal weakness and sin because none of us is perfect. The best of us need on-going conversion. We all can fail when we least expect to do so!

However, Jesus came for the least of us. He came for the most unworthy of us. He came for those who have despaired of hope. He came for sinners, which is every one of us with no exceptions! He died for our sins – and He rose to prove that there was life after death!

So, on this Easter Sunday, may we resolve to do better – May our presence here be more than “token” worship – May we take our life, however it is – and our death, however it comes – very seriously. And may we inherit all that Jesus has promised by beginning to live truly godly lives!

Amen.

April 12, 2020

Msgr. Russell G. Terra