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The Tomb Is Empty
Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Every day for the born again believer is resurrection day, the enemy could not hold Him. Jesus when He died rose victorious even though it looked like He had died, and through His death, burial and resurrection He is now seated at the right hand of the Father and He has brought many sons and daughters with Him. God is looking for ways to get into our lives in order that He may bless us. By the giving of our finances, this is just one way that enables Him to do that. Gods favor and increase rest upon our lives.

John 12:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" KJV

We have been given a fresh start, the tomb is empty. It may look like it is over in our lives because of wrong decisions, guilt and the past, but it is not over, that same resurrection life that empowered Jesus, empowers us.

A short story was read regarding a young man who had many physical problems, had been given a short time to live by the doctors. He attended school but was unable to keep up with children of his age, his teacher had talked with the parents advising them that he would never be able to understand what the others were capable of doing, but one day she passed out 19 plastic eggs to all the children, asking them to place inside things that spoke of new life or new beginnings to life. The children brought their eggs back and as she begin to open them and explain to the class what was there and how it told of new beginnings, each child responded that the egg shown was theirs, however, one egg that she opened was empty and she didn't comment on it, but the little boy responded by telling her that it was his egg, and that the reason that the egg was empty was "Jesus was no longer in the tomb, it was empty". Everything became quite and sometime later when the little boy had died, there were 19 empty eggs presented at his funeral service. The tomb was indeed empty and the little boy knew that it would be.

The following scripture tells us what Jesus would be doing, what His mission on earth would be and what He would be doing for us. Guilt and sin are usually found in people needing help and having no hope, outside and inside of the church, many start the race but became discouraged and drop out. Jesus also deals with the consequences of sin, which is good news for those struggling with things from their past. Many people don't know how to deal with their past and things that have happened, but in Jesus' resurrection He rose victorious over the devil and all his schemes and plans and Jesus put them under His feet when He arose. Jesus dealt with the consequences of sin.

When Jesus was on the cross, we see what happened in the natural to His physical appearance was terrible, but we do not see what happened to Him and was far more devastating in the spiritual realm. He is seen on the cross, but was unrecognizable, He had been so mistreated and our emotions deal with that, but there was so much more that happened on the cross that our natural eyes do not see. On the cross He was becoming sin, bearing our sin and most people understand that part, but they do not understand that He paid the penalty for our sin by spending three days and nights in the bowels of the earth, the sin of the world was laid on Him, He died with sin on Him.

The challenging part that most people deal with, once they ask forgiveness is making a turn and going a different direction, it is a challenge of being reminded to what happened in the past, because

sin always brings guilt, shame and remorse, but they have to realize that He paid the total cost including the consequences or guilt of those sins. Many believers after they are born again, knowing that they are going to heaven have a tendency to go through the rest of their lives feeling shame, guilt and remorse for things of the past, this is not Gods plan for them. Jesus came to deal with the consequences of "missing the mark" and set you in a state of righteousness.

Isa 53:11 "He shall see [the fruit] of the travail of His soul and be satisfied; by His knowledge of Himself [which He possesses and imparts to others] shall My [uncompromisingly] righteous One, My Servant, *justify many and make many righteous (upright and in right standing with God), for He shall bear their iniquities and their **guilt [with the ***consequences, says the Lord]." AMP

*justify as if there were no sin

**guilt means something that happened because of missing the mark, brings shame, inferiority, remorse and a sense of unworthiness

***consequences are the result of ones actions, something that happened in the past unwelcome or unpleasant, aftermath, conclusion or unfavorable outcome

How did Jesus and the Father deal with the consequences of sin? Because of His resurrection so many years ago, we don't have to deal with the consequences of sin anytime now or in the future. By the renewing of our minds, taking on His character and His image, we learn that the consequences of sin in our lives is not something that holds on to us, as some in the religious world would like to have us believe.

How does God see us now? He sees us whole and complete. Paul is writing to us regarding a positional truth.

The Father sees us now through the finished work of Jesus, He is not looking around Jesus trying to see us, but through the finished work, He is seeing Jesus in us, the religious world looks around Jesus and sees us just like we were before salvation. God sees us through Jesus, as a new creature the old things are passed away and the bible teaches us that He does not even remember our sin. The blood of Jesus is far superior, not like the covenant in the Old Testament where the blood only covered the sin.

2 Cor 5:17-21 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." KJV

v. 18 the ministry of reconciliation, means being brought into harmony, fellowship again, reconciling with others getting along, this is the kind of ministry that we now have

v.19 the ministry of reconciliation is bringing into harmony the world restoring and reconciling to favor with Himself, not holding against men their trespasses

Religion would try to tell us that God is wanting to destroy the world and they are confused. We are in the church age now, where Gods grace is being poured out, He is looking for ways to bless us. He cancelled the sins of men through Jesus who was made sin, God turned His back on Jesus during that time of Him being made sin, going into the bowels of the earth suffering what we would have suffered. We were set free of all the guilt and shame, if we are still walking around with guilt and shame, the process is not completed, He wants you free and whole. We have the favor of God, sin has been dealt with, He is not keeping track of sin. There is only one thing that the world will be

guilty of "Not Accepting Jesus Christ As Their Savior" that one thing will keep them out of heaven. The sin has been judged and dealt with.

This is the message of reconciliation that we are to take to the world that has no hope, only guilt, shame and remorse, a sense of unworthiness. His Son Jesus has provided the way, because of the love that God the Father has for us. Praise God, the tomb is empty!

2 Cor 5:19 "It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor)." AMP

2 Cor 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." KJV

There are believers that have a hard time feeling like they are righteous, but the word tells us that we have been made righteous because of Jesus, it is not something that we do, it has already been done by Jesus. If this is the way we are feeling, then the following scripture tells us what to do to get it right.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." KJV

You cannot find your future looking in the past, if we are not careful we will allow the past to rule our future. Jesus has dealt with that past; He wants us rising up to a new level. God's righteousness does not come to us by good works, but we received it when we were born again. Don't allow the past to pull you back out of God's provision; you will never walk in what He has for you. We may deserve it in the natural, but Jesus paid the price and we are in Jesus and because of Him we are righteous. People may remind you of what you did and try to keep you in box, the devil will try to do that same thing, but Jesus rolled the stone away, we are risen in Jesus, don't let the pull of the past defeat you, stand your ground.

Rom 5:17 "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)" KJV

The following scriptures are showing you the heart of the father when the prodigal comes home. He spent everything that had been given to him, but one day he realized that he could go back to father's house, the father had compassion and accepted him, he didn't judge him or hold him at arm's length, but instead brought out the robe, the ring and the shoes. His love was unconditional, that is the way that God looks at us. We may have the kind of love that is conditional with others, but shouldn't be. God restores and just wants us to accept what has been done through Jesus.

Luke 15:20-24 "And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. 21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. 22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." KJV

The older son complained about the way the prodigal was treated, stating he had never had a party for his friends, but his father reminded him, that all he had was available for the son, but he never asked. This is the way that God wants to treat us, everything has been provided, but we have to ask. The tomb is empty, the tomb that the devil and people would try to keep us in is empty, and the stone has been rolled away. Walk out a free man or woman.