



Ron & Cheryl Myers      GOD'S WORD FOR ISAN NEWSLETTER      April, 2017

## He Is Risen; Yes, He Is Risen Indeed! Easter? Or, Resurrection Celebration Sunday?

By Ron Myers

Greetings Again In Jesus' Name,

The bedrock of Biblical truth, which remains forever at the very core of the Gospel message, is the *incredible* news that the angel proclaimed to the three forlorn ladies who had brought spices to anoint their dead Master's entombed body, was; *"Be not frightened: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him... go your way, tell His disciples..."* (Mark 16:6-7) Dr Luke described the event in similar, yet more profound words: *"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how He spake unto you... 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again!'"* (Luke 24:5-7)

At that juncture, the Disciples grief and utter hopelessness was changed to wonderment, which was soon transformed to indescribable joy when the living Christ personally showed Himself to them, conversed with them, and invited them to touch Him. Yet, other Disciples were frightened and unsure when they saw Him; to which He dispelled their fears by eating food before them to prove that He was truly alive, and not an apparition. He then opened their understanding to comprehend the scriptures concerning His suffering, death, burial and resurrection, and that repentance and salvation should be preached in His Name—God's plan for the ages. (Luke 24:36-) Furthermore; *"After that, he was seen by above five hundred brethren at once"* (I Corinthians 15:6)

Meanwhile, the unbelieving Jewish leaders who had Christ crucified were busy fabricating explanations as to why there was no *body* lying in the sepulcher, which is another story in itself. Even today, unbelieving liberal church leaders and nominal Christians are doing the same thing, denying the Deity and the bodily Resurrection of Christ... saying things like He lives on in our hearts and memories, etc. All this refusal to accept the truth takes the clout out of the Biblical message, putting the unparalleled Gospel on the same level as all manmade religions.

This is where the Thai Buddhists are in their works-based socio-religious mindset. They have no Judeo-Christian worldview to draw upon in their understanding (*nor do many Westerners any more for that matter*). Neither do they have any inkling of a Creator God. So, if one seeks to tell them the Gospel story about Jesus using normal witnessing methods, all they "hear" is that the foreigners' Jesus, like their Buddha, was a religious teacher who instructed people how to do good. They then repeat the phrase that, *"All religions are equally good, because they all teach people to do good, etc."*

If Christ did *not* resurrect bodily from the grave on that early Sunday morning – by the infused life-giving power of the Holy Spirit – any religion or none at all would do just fine... take your pick. We who believe would still be in spiritual darkness, without hope; because, Christ's dusty bones would be lying in the grave, just like all famous human greats or religious leaders, be it Buddha, Mohamed, or whoever. The fact is: *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened (made alive again) by the Spirit:"* (1 Peter 3:18)

Jesus is *not* a mere human being, but God come in human form—100% God and 100% man. He is the Living Savior of all mankind, especially those who receive Him, who died to pay the price for our sin, and was resurrected again for our justification. No manmade religion could ever accomplish this. Christ's bodily resurrection proved that His sacrificial death was a successful offering, fully meeting the requirements of a righteous and holy Father-God who said in Ezekiel 18, *"the soul who sins shall die."* So, the sinless Christ, who *died* on our behalf, to pay the price for our sins, also rose again bodily in victorious triumph over sin and death, insuring that we too would freely share in His life forever. So, the three most important events in human history are not only the virgin-born birth and sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ, but just as crucial, His bodily resurrection!!

This truth is the very heartbeat of the Gospel message that we proclaim; as the Apostle Paul so adeptly reassures us in I Corinthians 15, stating that without the resurrection of Christ, there would be no Living Savior, no forgiveness for sin, and no eternal hope! The truth remains that the Lord Jesus Christ *did* rise from the grave bodily; ensuring forgiveness, hope, and eternal life for all who embrace His sacrificial death on their behalf. With all due respect, it's not about Easter egg hunts, or decorated Easter baskets filled with jellybeans and little candy animals. These enjoyable, non-Christian customs come directly from heathen roots into our present-day culture. We must therefore keep them in proper perspective and teach our children likewise.

As believers, we might wish others a *Happy Easter* on Sunday, April 16; however, what we really *should* be saying is, *"Happy Resurrection Celebration Sunday,"* because, **He Is Risen; Yes, He Is Risen Indeed!** And, He is returning again soon to receive all those who receive Him unto Himself!!

In closing, we want to assure you that we are grateful for your faithful prayers and generous contributions. You are truly our partners, sharing in the ministry to the Isan people of Northeast Thailand. And, there is so much more left to do. So, please continue to pray for us, and for all Buddhist people throughout Thailand, to the end that they will truly come to understand and receive the Risen Christ as their own personal Living Lord and Savior.

By God's Grace and For His Glory,

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