

A WEEKLY WORD

Readings for the week of February 13

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And **if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!** Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. **But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.**

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 – NKJV

Paul had been preaching on the risen Christ previous to this part of the chapter. He has just referenced how Christ appeared, (after His death), to Cephas (who was Peter), then by the twelve, and then five hundred at once.

After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

Then, Paul says, last of all, He was seen by me also.

In verse 11 he says; Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach, and so you believed.

He then follows with the above verses finishing with what I have hi-lighted.

BUT NOW CHRIST IS RISEN!

Death for Paul was the enemy!

Death is the result of sin! Romans 6:23

That final enemy was abolished and conquered by Jesus! 1 Timothy 1:10, and 1 Corinthians 15:26

Paul, who was one of the most zealous persecutors of Christians, the one who gave the word to have Stephen stoned. The one who hunted down these fanatics, was completely changed on a road trip to Damascus where he came face to face with the Son of God! The risen Christ!

Therefore he penned the words: But now Christ is risen!

Oh death, where is thy sting? Oh grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen!

Our Heavenly Father, who stands outside of time. Who sees and knows your beginning and end has already prepared for you the atonement needed to share in His resurrection!

All you have to do is believe on Him who saved you and receive His love.

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.