

The Barnabas Letter

This month we will celebrate the joyous triumph of Easter. We will again rejoice in the victory won for us on that first Easter Sunday so very long ago. Joyfully we will proclaim; "Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!" We will be filled anew with the joy of our salvation, granted to us by our triumphant, loving Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, it will be quite a party. But, in all our joy, let us not forget just what it took to get to this joyful day.

Holy week can be an enriching experience for those of us who take seriously the terrible price our sins demanded in payment for our redemption. Remember, my beloved brethren, there is no remission of sin without the shedding of blood. Our Lord Jesus Christ shed His innocent blood for our redemption. Christ Jesus died in agony upon that cross, not because He had to, but because of His great love for us. The only reason for the death of Christ was our sins. We are the guilty ones and we are the only reason our Lord died in such an agonizing manner. Crucifixion is a most unpleasant way to die, to put it mildly. Death is very slow in coming, asphyxiation is the actual cause, if a person has the strength, death can take days to arrive. Our Lord endured six long, terrible hours on the cross before He gave up the ghost and died. The Lord had been beaten until He was human rubble before being crucified. If you haven't seen Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion of the Christ" I highly recommend that you do so. The movie depicts in graphic detail what our Lord suffered for us. Our Roman brethren have a thing called the Stations of the Cross, as they move from one station to the next, the entire story of the passion of our Lord is told. There are fourteen stations and at each one another part of the story is recounted and prayers are said. Should you get the chance to participate in this, do so, it will forcefully remind you of what your salvation cost.

Of course our Lord's suffering and death is only part of this story. Easter day will dawn and our joy will be made new as we witness again the great mystery of our faith. Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again! How wonderful to know that, while the cross condemned our sins, that same cross set us free because of Jesus' shed blood that washed our sins away! Remember what the angel told the women at the tomb that first Easter morning. "He is not here, but He is risen! Why do you seek the living among the dead?" The Lord has risen indeed and He commands us to proclaim the joyful news that all who will repent and believe will be made children of God Most High. Brothers and sisters; we have been washed clean, our cleansing was accomplished only because God's love was willing to endure the terrible death and the shedding of innocent blood required to bring about our salvation. Our Lord died for us, He rose again in order to break our chains and to open for us the very gates of heaven, He calls us to live for Him. Truly, my dear friends, we can do no less.

May our Lord richly bless you all this Easter.

Your brother in Christ Jesus;

Pastor D.W. Huston