

PANTAI BAPTIST CHURCH
.....
PETALING JAYA

BLESSED EASTER

HE IS
RISEN!

Jesus said,
“I AM the resurrection
and the life.”

JOHN 11:25



FOREWORD

“I serve a Risen Saviour !” as the familiar song goes. This truth is the essence of Easter. After Jesus was crucified, all the disciples ran helter-skelter for fear perhaps of serious retaliation or persecution by the Roman authorities or others opposing Jesus. Yes, all fled. Not one remained in spite of all the statements of allegiance earlier on.

They went into hiding, a fearful bunch. They dared not even claim His body for a proper burial. It was left to a secret disciple (John 19:38), Joseph of Arimathea, who went to Pilate in the late evening of Good Friday and made the request to bury Jesus in his own (Joseph’s) tomb.

Then came Sunday morning. The tomb was empty. The Bible says, *“He is not here, He has risen, just as He said.”* The apostle Paul says if Christ has not been raised our faith is futile (1 Cor 15:17).

The Resurrection is the lynch pin of our faith.

“He lives ! He lives ! Christ Jesus lives today....”

May we experience the power of His Resurrection always.

Blessings,
Elder Bryan Lee

Note : As for the frightened disciples, peace was offered in place of fear by their resurrected Lord. The betrayed went to look for His betrayers.

C O N T E N T S



EASTER – THE RESURRECTION



SADNESS TO JOY



A CALL TO HOLY LIVING



BLESSING

"HOW CAN YOU EXPECT
TO DWELL WITH GOD FOREVER,
IF YOU SO NEGLECT
AND FORSAKE HIM HERE?"

Jonathan Edwards



*E*ASTER – THE *R*ESURRECTION

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the cornerstone of the truth of Christianity. We have a risen and living Saviour who can transform the lives of spiritually dead people to spiritually alive persons. Jesus said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of GOD.”* (John 3:3)

All other religions, though they teach good things, require their followers to try to be good and do good works to earn their way to the next life, to a better *karma*. It is not surprising then to find that many unbelievers do far more charity in the world than Christians.

People want to change their lives. They just have no power to do it. They try as hard as they can,





like Sisyphus in Homer's *Illiad* who tried repeatedly to roll an immense boulder up a hill only for it to roll back down every time it neared the top.

When people try their best to change and can't make it happen, they give up. The devil then drives them to think that since hell is waiting for them, they might as well be as bad as they can and enjoy all the lust of the flesh in this world because this life is all they have. *How tragic!*

Most unbelievers fear hell or Hades after death. That is their reality. It is no wonder that they do all they can to prolong this life, to fight to live and not die. Only the atheists whom the Bible calls fools are blind, many of whom become terrified and realise their folly when Death stares them in the face and the burning fire of hell is at their doorstep. The devil is never more real to sinners than at the point of death. *There is no heaven waiting for them.*





Christians have this wonderful promise that Jesus made to His disciples when He told them He had to return to heaven from where He came. *“I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”* (John 14:3) Though Christians know they are going to heaven, they don’t know how to get there. None has gone there before. But when Christians die, they die in the Lord’s presence because He is waiting by their side to take them to their heavenly home. There is much to talk about along the way to the Father’s house.

THE CHANGED LIFE

The true Christian is a radically different person. Having in faith believed and met the Resurrected Lord, like the first witnesses on the third day, they always hear Him say, *“Peace be with you,”* (John 20:21).



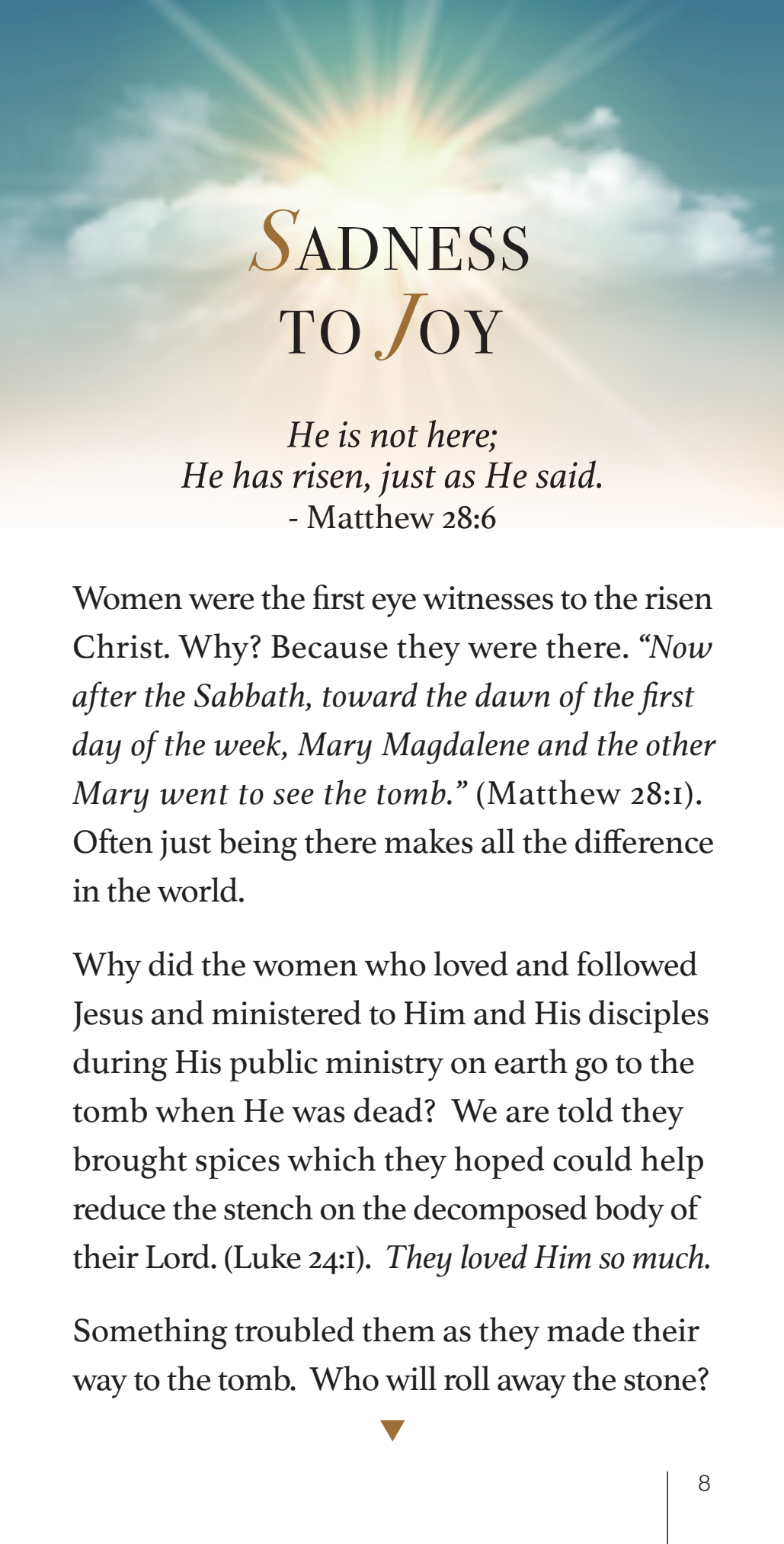


"I AM the Resurrection and the Life."

That peace is reconciliation with GOD through Christ. No longer GOD's enemies or rebellious creatures, the new creation (sinner born again) lives to love and obey GOD and in turn is blessed with a life of great peace and joy, whether the sun shines or the day is filled with dark clouds, whether in sickness or in health, for the child of GOD knows his Father is always watching over him. **Hallelujah!**

Have you met the Resurrected Lord?





SADNESS TO JOY

*He is not here;
He has risen, just as He said.*
- Matthew 28:6

Women were the first eye witnesses to the risen Christ. Why? Because they were there. *“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.”* (Matthew 28:1). Often just being there makes all the difference in the world.

Why did the women who loved and followed Jesus and ministered to Him and His disciples during His public ministry on earth go to the tomb when He was dead? We are told they brought spices which they hoped could help reduce the stench on the decomposed body of their Lord. (Luke 24:1). *They loved Him so much.*

Something troubled them as they made their way to the tomb. Who will roll away the stone?





As they were near, they felt tremors of an earthquake. Then fear turned to terror when they saw the open tomb! The stone had been rolled away! They went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "*Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!*" (Luke 24:4-6)

And then, they remembered the Lord's words and the realization sunk in. They left immediately to tell the disciples. And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. (Matthew 28:9) What great joy they must have felt to have met the resurrected Lord!

Women became the first evangelists of the Resurrection.



A *C*ALL TO *H*OLY *L*IVING

*“We were buried with Him
by baptism into death, in order that,
just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might walk in newness of life.”*

- Romans 6:4

There are legitimate reasons why the world, the church, and our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, may expect more from Christians than from the rest of mankind. And, the first is, because they profess more. A Christian professes himself to be a renewed man; he has learned the evil of sin, repented of it, and fled from it to Christ Jesus. He professes to have been pardoned, and to have received a new heart and a right spirit. He professes, also, to be a child of GOD, and an heir of heaven. *Other men do not profess this.*

Now, Christian, if you profess this, your life must prove it. If your life gives the lie to your





religious pretensions, you stand convicted of a flagrant falsehood.

Secondly, we may well expect more from Christians than others, because it is a fact in the case of those who are truly Christians that they are more than others. The believer in Christ is born again. We have received the Spirit of GOD into our souls, which has implanted in us a new nature higher than the nature of other men.

We have GOD's nature in us. We are in the light while the whole world lies in darkness. What is the indwelling Spirit within us? Is the Holy Spirit not Omnipotence itself? Who shall set any limit to the power of that man in whom the Holy Spirit Himself dwells? We can do what the dead sinner cannot do. We can do what sinners, without the Spirit, cannot do.

Having GOD to be your GOD, Providence is yours – all things work together for your good. Serve your Lord with an intensity which others cannot reach, and live for Him with an ardor of





"I AM the Resurrection and the Life."

which they cannot conceive. Let us take care that we quench not the Spirit, that by our unbelief we restrain not His Divine energies; but let us strive, *GOD* in us, after the highest conceivable standard of holiness and of separation from the world.

O Spirit of GOD, help us that we may be sanctified by Your grace, spirit, soul, and body.

Amen.

– C. H. Spurgeon





*B*LESSING

*May GOD “according
to the riches of His glory,
grant you to be strengthened
with power through His Spirit
in your inner being.”*

- Ephesians 3:16

Happy Easter!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. John Macarthur. Three Responses to the Resurrection.
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/80-416/Three-Responses-to-the-Resurrection>
2. C.H.Spurgeon. A Call to Holy Living.
<https://www.spurgeon.org/resource-library/sermons/a-call-to-holy-living/#flipbook/>
3. John Macarthur. The Power of the Resurrection.
<https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/1267/the-power-of-the-resurrection>

This epublication by Pantai Baptist Church Petaling Jaya is produced for the edification and encouragement of GOD's flock here to walk right with GOD, to obey all His commandments, to continually repent of our wrongdoings that offend and grieve Him, and to diligently study His word that we may be sanctified by the truth daily and become more and more like Christ, our Saviour.