



Correspondent's Corner

He is not here, but is risen

April, 2019

Women have had a wonderful role to fulfill in God's great plan of redemption. From Eve in the Garden of Eden to Mary who was used by God to bring His Son into the World there have been many amazing women who have

been dedicated to God's will for them. The words of the title of this article are part of the message spoken by two angels to a group of women who came to the tomb of the Lord Jesus on the first day of the week after His death. They were coming to finish up a hasty burial of the Lord's body so they had spices and ointments with them. They had been at the tomb when Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus had laid the Lord's body in a tomb that Joseph had hewn out for himself, likely not knowing that he would use the tomb for the Son of God's body. The last thing that the Lord Jesus said while on the cross was "Father, into Thy hands I commend my spirit". Then He, unlike any other man, laid down His life of His own will. The Lord Jesus said many times during His public ministry that He would be rejected, killed by crucifixion and would rise from the dead.

The Lord's disciples did not grasp what the Lord Jesus was saying when He spoke of His death and subsequent resurrection. They were expecting the Messiah to be their deliverer from the rule of Rome and that He would establish his reign on Earth at that time. Their expectations were not that He would die to deliver them from the penalty of sin. They loved and served Him with all they could, even sharing in the reproach of always being seen with the Lord Jesus. At one low point when a number went away from the Lord in John 6:66-68 the Lord asked His twelve disciples if they were also going to go away. Peter responded: "to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life, and we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God". The disciples saw the Lord do many marvelous and wonderful miracles and this only strengthened their trust in Him. When they witnessed the Lord's death on the cross they were afraid for their lives and went to hide in a room with locked doors.

The women who followed the Lord went out early in the morning on the Lord's day while it was still dark and they found that the stone that was rolled over the tombs entrance was rolled back to open the tomb. They also found the two angels who told them of the Lord being raised from the dead. The angels said "why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here,

but is risen: remember how He spoke unto you when He was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again". Then we read: "And they remembered His words".

Then things really started to happen. First the Lord appeared to Mary Magdalene in the garden near to the tomb and then He appeared to more of the women and to Peter and to the disciples in the room where they were hiding. For forty days He was with His own before He went back to Heaven. At one time we read of a gathering of more than five hundred who saw the Lord alive from the dead. It is a fact of history that the Lord Jesus is raised from the dead.

This grand message of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ has been declared now for nearly two thousand years. It is the message of the Love of God for a fallen human race. It is the only message of hope and assurance of salvation. 1st Corinthians 15:3, 4 says "That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures". After all, the angels said: "He is not here, but is risen."

Sincerely, *John Eggers*

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