

April 2019

Dear Friends,

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:4-10 KJV)

The message that Paul delivers is at the heart of the beauty of Easter; when Jesus rose from the dead He took us with Him. He made us who were dead in sins alive with Him, saving us and seating us together with and in Him in the heavenly places. Now He continues to show the riches of His grace to us by His kindness through Jesus Christ. Paul's ages to come aren't simply future but include the time we live in now. This is what God is doing now. So here then is the truth of Easter; God is kind. He raised up the helpless and gave us new life. God is kind, a message that bears repeating because so often He is depicted by us as being anything but kind. God is kind. He has saved us by His grace, gifted us with salvation and recreated us. We are the work of His hand created in Christ to do as He wants us to. In His kindness God has given us the works we are to do as gift that now we may walk in them. Paul makes this clear in another of his epistles as well:

For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: 15 And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. 16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:14-17 KJV)

The love of Christ now holds us fast because we understand that the death of Christ is for all of humankind therefore at the end all will be resurrected without exception even as the Scripture says some to eternal life and some to death but all will be raised. So God in His kindness has stood in our stead to deliver us, and we in His kindness no longer judge people in their oldness but we know that through Christ they are new, no one is to be seen in the old but spoken to according to the new. The new creation has come in Christ, old things are gone and everything is new. This is now the way things are in the Spirit, they aren't discerned by the fleshly mind, only by the Spirit can we see and understand God's work rightly. With Easter through God's kindness our world has changed forever and is now simply awaiting the revelation of that truth in human history though in the Spirit it's already seen. So in the lyrics of Charles Wesley:

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise; Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia! - Christ the Lord is Risen Today (#126 Hymns and Songs of Zion). A blessed Easter to all of you.

God's Peace,
Jay Weidner



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While this is an excellent strategy, it has proven a challenge for us to actually meet the minimum funding requirements. Until now, the fund has existed but remained unfunded. By the Lord's grace we have been blessed with a large contribution to fund the Inter-Lutheran Seminary Endowment Fund. We would love to build on this generous contribution to grow our endowment into a major source of ongoing seminary support.

Although the seminary still needs the financial ongoing regular contributions of our supporters, please consider the endowment fund for your planned giving needs. The seminary has chosen the InFaith Community Endowment Fund (the renamed Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation) to administer our endowment fund. They will provide experienced legal advice to help guide you with any contribution questions done through estate planning in addition to lump sum contributions, IRAs, property and securities. For more additional information, please contact Kirk Otto, Jr. at (715) 294-4343 or Cheryl Hendrickson at (906) 482-3337.