



March, 2024



"It Is Finished!"

Dear Supporters:

Many died on the cross in those days but Jesus's death wasn't the same. He died because He loves mankind whom He has created and wants to redeem us back to Himself, so that we can spend eternity with Him.

His death was the only way to do this and His love overcame death. Salvation is costly to God and yet free to us. Praise God for His willingness and sacrifice. Praise God He didn't give up on us. Praise God, for His forgiveness and humility. Praise God for His unconditional, unfailing, extravagant, amazing Love that won our victory. Then of course He rose triumphantly from the grave and many saw Him ascended back to Heaven, going to prepare a place for all those who will accept His Love. Then, He will return to take them to live with Him forever.

What a gift, what a promise!

Matthew 24:36 says, "However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows."

So we eagerly continue to engage in ministry so that others can come to know His Love or grow in His love to help others who don't yet know Him and have this cycle continue for as long as we still have time.

Thank you for your support. It is helping us say yes to the needs such as this one: just as I am putting this newsletter together, an email came through for summer camp assistance,

Quote, "....., thank you once again for providing sponsorship for children to attend camp. We are always looking for ways to help kids attend camp, especially those who come from families with financial hardships. We would love to be included in your sponsorship of campers this year (2024)."



In advance of Easter coming at the end of this month I wanted to share with you all something I was challenged on, a few Easters ago. A former Pastor preached a sermon on slowing down on Good Friday and not rushing past it because on this side of the cross in history we know what happens on Easter Sunday. We quite naturally want to get to "He is risen" and miss the full weight of "It is finished". We want the Son rise not the darkness that fell upon the earth at the crucifixion. This darkness is uncomfortable for us, how do we understand what was truly going on here? We can somewhat think the cross itself to be a horrid thing to physically endure, but we have no idea whatsoever to contemplate the Holy God taking on the sins of the world, my sins, your sins. This sin that is the exact opposite of who God is, the price of this action is beyond calculating to the entirety of the Godhead. All three persons of the Godhead paid the price in that for a time when Jesus took on our sins, fellowship in the Godhead was broken as Jesus cried out "My God My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)

I believe we all need to sit in that moment this Easter and ponder what was going on here, the darkest moment in all of history. We know it is the doorway to the most miraculous dawn but the disciples standing in that darkness did not. What a cost to our God who paid for this gift. Remember the old Gospel Chorus?

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul,
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole,
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me,
Thy great salvation so rich and free.

Have a blessed Easter everyone.

Ron Altken,
SCA Interim Executive Director



He Is Risen!!