

Christ is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Now What?

Many years ago, a seminary classmate of mine put forward an idea for a sermon he wanted to preach. Instead of talking about the words of the Bible, he wanted to preach an entire sermon made up of nothing but quotes from the Bible. An ambitious challenge, indeed, to string together quotes from Scripture in a way that would remain faithful to every text used and at the same time also deliver God's words to a congregation.

I don't know if he ever attempted such a sermon, but I remembered his proposal as I was contemplating the question posed in the title of this article: Now what? With our annual celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord now behind us and the Easter season well underway, it may be tempting to back off or beg off from the stuff of our faith. Other things are beckoning, after all, as Springtime once again promises a host of opportunities and activities. With Easter "behind us," what comes next?

The simple truth is that Scripture provides plenty of "now what?" direction for our faith and our life. Permit me to string a few of these together, and invite you to ponder what God is giving and calling and promising you as you live your life in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore 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. For if we have been united in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his (Romans 6:3-5).

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good (1 Peter 2:2-3).

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:23-25).

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:19-20).

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Yes, Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Cling to His Resurrection through your Baptism. Feed on His words and so grow in your faith and in your life together with your fellow believers. Bring Jesus to everyone you can, with every opportunity God gives you. Live looking forward in hope to the glory that will be revealed to you at the Last Day.

All of this has been brought to you and given to you by the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now what? Now live in the good news that Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!