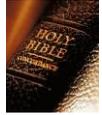


The DEFENDER—April 2022



“. . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast



FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK: Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled

It’s not my intent, in the articles that I write, to sway your attention in one direction or another. My hope is to give you enough information, based on fact and some educated speculation, to draw your own conclusions. That said, I want you to be enlightened enough so as not to be blindsided by any future events. As I’ve often pointed out, God is sovereign and all-knowing, meaning two things. Nothing takes Him by surprise, and all the events of the world, like the back of a tapestry, are related, and by God’s Providence, will ultimately bring history as we know it to an end.

Most theologians would agree that the yet future battle described in Ezekiel 38 and 39 would include Russia as an aggressor seeking the destruction of Israel for the purpose, in part, of controlling the Holy Land’s many natural resources, including her precious metals as well as her oil and gas reserves. The Russian bear is currently after the uranium, iron, mercury, and manganese ore reserves in Ukraine. It’s not just about controlling the geography that Vladimir Putin wants, but what is in the ground as well.

While the world’s attention is fixed on World War III, other evil powers are at work envisioning a utopia, aka Sustainable Development by 2030. Just as the Covid p(l)andemic diverted the world’s attention away from the global elitists, wars and rumors of wars are intended to do the same. Who cares if countless innocent lives are lost in the process? Certainly not Bill Gates or Klaus Schwab. One of the goals of the demons of Davos is a massive population reduction anyway. Their ultimate objective, of course, is a new world order, known to Bible scholars as the one world government of the Antichrist.

Not to be outdone, of course, is the beast of the east, Xi Jinping, not to be confused with Putin the pawn. Xi, who also sees himself as divinity, has made great strides in his quest to rule the world (with or without Taiwan). He has mastered, at least by today’s standards, the power of the surveillance state. With information obtained through GPS tracking, consumer data, and facial recognition, the regime can determine who is allowed to buy, sell, and travel, based on a person’s social behavior. With Beijing’s use of artificial intelligence and digital data gathering, they are fast becoming an AI-powered techno-totalitarian state. They will decide when and where you shop, what you can and cannot read, and what drugs you will inject into your body. To not comply will get you a seat on the bus to the re-education camp. Or to the gulag. Or worse.

If you’re uncomfortable with any of the above, I give you the words of Jesus. “In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). He also said “Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul, but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matthew 10:28). Don’t agonize over this earthly realm. Instead, repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Matthew 3:2).

Rev. David Lewis

What Will Believers Know in Heaven? Making Our Calling and Election Sure (2 Pet. 1:10)

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

To believers in Jesus Christ the Apostle Paul wrote, "Now I know IN PART" but then I shall know even as "I AM KNOWN" (1 Cor. 13:12).

From God's Word we have some knowledge of our future life, but it is limited: that is, "IN PART or partial." Writing earlier to these same Corinthian believers, Paul assured them (AND us) "that eye hath NOT seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM" (1 Cor. 2:9). These 'THINGS' were decided upon before the earth was created (Ep. 1:4; 1 Pet. 1:19-20; Rev. 13:8).

So why are we not told more? Many of the promises to Christ's flock (John 10:11, 16) will be fulfilled AFTER Christ returns to earth (John 14:1-3). Only then shall "we know as we are known." Believers have spiritual life once saved by Grace alone through Faith alone by an undeserved, unearned "GIFT OF GOD" (Ep. 2:7-9, 2 Tim. 1:9).

Christ fulfilled "ALL Righteousness" and all prophecies concerning His first earthly sojourn so that every saved Jew "AND" every saved Gentile are made "Sons of God and joint heirs" with Christ (John 1:12-13; Rom. 8:14-17). Through the finished work of Christ (John 17:4, 19:3) those He "made in Himself" of those two "ONE NEW MAN" (Ep. 2:14-17) giving both "access by ONE SPIRIT unto the FATHER" (vs. 18). Our God worked "in us" in unity and in Triune purpose "for us" (John 17:21-23).

The Apostle John also wrote, "Beloved, now are we the SONS OF GOD," and "it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, "WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM": for we shall "SEE HIM AS HE IS" (1 John 3:2). The Apostle Peter wrote, "...the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... hath begotten us again ... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled ... reserved in heaven for you ... ready to be revealed in the LAST TIME" (1 Pet. 1:3-5).

The writer of the Book of Hebrews spoke of the faith of Moses whereby he endured all afflictions, as if "seeing Him who is INVISIBLE" (Heb. 11:27) and by faith had indwelling hope that through the redemption of Jesus Christ his eternity would be of peace and purity and that he "shall know even also as he is known."

It is noteworthy that it is not only the redeemed in Christ who enter eternity but also every soul not a part of Christ must also face eternity. In Luke 16, Jesus told the story of the rich man and Lazarus, and many believe it was not a parable but an accurate depiction of life after death. Jesus said of the rich man, "In hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments" (vs. 22-23). Believers' souls go to be with Christ for ... "to be absent from the body" is, "to be Present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

The "future state is the final state" and discussions as to whether there is a hell will be over. All will know for a certainty that the threatenings as well as the promises in God's Word will be carried

out by “HE who sits upon the throne.” Those who insist that God is too loving to punish sinners need to remember Noah’s flood, Sodom and Gomorrah, Jesus’ teachings, and Peter as well that God will reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished (2 Pet. 2:3-5, 9; Matt. 24:38-39).

If we all are to “know even as we are known,” all will be conscious. The human spirit, whether holy or sinful, friend or enemy of God (John 15:15; James 4:4) in eternity will be aware. If made holy in Christ, washed in His blood and redeemed by His Grace, we will know it. The blessings of faith and salvation will continue and fully blossom in heaven increasing our joy in and love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sadly, for our loved ones and all the unsaved the misery of hell will be unceasing. It is written, “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still ... let him be filthy still ...” (Rev. 22:11, 20:12-15; Gal. 6:7-8). For Christ’s sheep, heaven has its beginnings here on earth. Here God’s chosen begin to hate sin but also to love God’s holiness through the grace of the Holy Spirit in our hearts (Rom. 8:9-11; 1 John 3:24).

God tells all through His Prophets and Apostles to, “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Pet. 1:16). Habakkuk (1:13) says of God, “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not LOOK ON INIQUITY.” What an awful day it will be for the unsaved soul ushered into God’s divine presence. Their cry will be like the cry of the Kings in Revelation, chapter six (6:15:17), or of those who blasphemed God because of their pains (Rev. 16:8-11).

Only those who have come to spiritual life and rest in Christ (Ep. 2:1) who love holiness out of their NEW HEART will be protected from future misery. Jesus Christ is the same “yesterday, and today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8) so “we must be changed;” to be exact, become “born again” (John 3:7-8), a work of God “ALONE” that secures eternal life. Note too, there is taught by some that there is a place of purging after death is found nowhere in God’s Word.

Salvation is only in Christ alone forgiving our sins through our hearing and believing in the one and only sacrifice provided (Heb. 10:10-17, 13:20-21). Our righteousness is to God as “filthy rags” (Is. 64:6). Christ alone can remove our corruption and keep us out of the “Lake of Fire” (Rev. 20:14-15).

Man is afraid to look at his own heart lest his sins be revealed, and he be condemned, but “all will BE REVEALED” in that day. All who die with unrepented sin will suffer a Holy God’s wrath. There will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 13:36-43).

We all must one day face reality, either now in “time,” or then in “Eternity.” Every undying soul must face a “thrice holy God” (Is. 6:1-5); none can hide or flee from God (Ps. 139:7-12). Let no “Christian” be found speechless as the man with no wedding garment in Christ’s parable (Matt. 22:12). Let us all cry out as the publican in the temple, “God be merciful to me a sinner” (Luke 18:13-14). Keep looking up (Luke 21:28).

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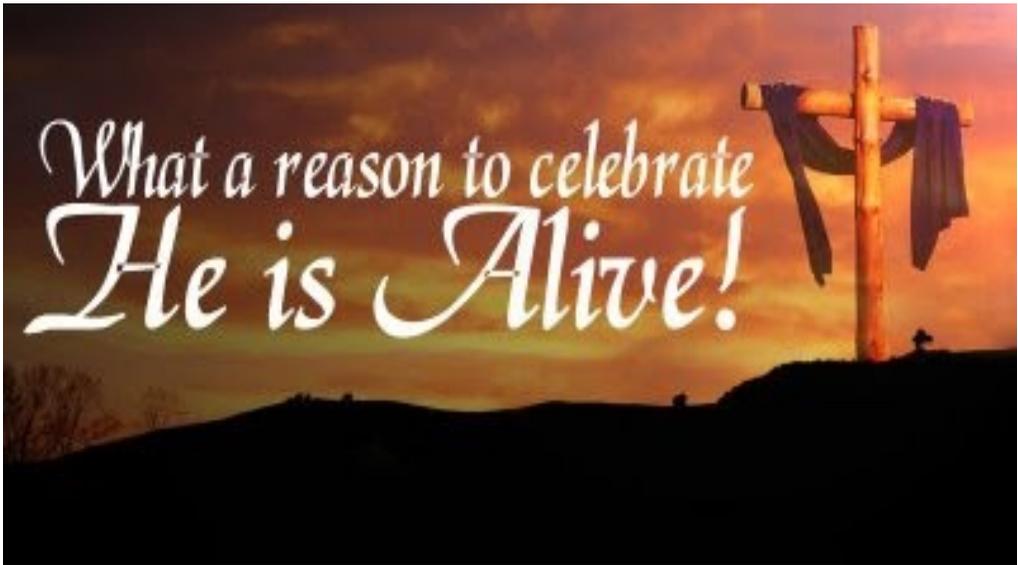
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Happy
Resurrection
Day

“Because He Lives”

By Nancy Long

Matt. 28:6 – *“He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”*

Mark 16:6b – *“..... He is risen: He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him.”*

Luke 24:6a – *“He is not here, but is risen:*”

John 14:19b – *“..... because I live, ye shall live also.”*

John 2:25 – *“And this is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life.”*

Because He Lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,
He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Chorus ---

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

Words and Music – William J. and Gloria Gaither

Very soon we will be observing a holiday that some refer to as Easter, while others say, Resurrection Sunday. To many, this celebration time means chocolate bunnies, baskets, egg hunts, pretty clothes (usually pastels), family gatherings, and even perhaps, going to church. However, to those of us who are born again believers, this day is the most important holiday of Christianity, because it means **hope!** Jesus Christ is alive!!!

When this song, “Because He Lives” was written, in the late nineteen sixties, all seemed out of control. We were in the midst of a war with Vietnam, drugs were everywhere, and the “God is dead” movement was being taught in our public schools, life in our “land of the free and home of the brave” was far from godly. Sin and evil permeated our “America, the beautiful”. We were a nation it seemed, without hope!

“This world has gone crazy”, so thought song writer, Gloria Gaither, “and here we are expecting our third child What about the days to come?” However, after much prayer and meditation, Gloria, once again, was made aware of the truth that God is in control that God has an eternal plan!! The fear she had been experiencing had been replaced with joy!! The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was reaffirmed in her spirit, and she was given peace within, as well as assurance, knowing and believing the future to be in **God’s** hands (Phil. 4:7). There **is** hope!! Not one of us knows about tomorrow, but we absolutely **can** know the One who holds it!!

The hymn, “Because He Lives” was brought about after the birth of Bill and Gloria Gaither’s precious baby boy, Benjamin. God’s gift of life restored new confidence and faith in the times to come! **Believers** have a hope in Christ!! We, who know Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, are exhorted to rejoice and be glad in each new day He brings (Psalm 118:24). **He** holds the future not us!! It’s **His** perfect, sovereign, and eternal plan not ours!!!

There was confusion in this world over five decades ago when this hymn was written, and guess what?? There continues to be discord and chaos today, uncertainties everywhere, breakdown of families, disharmony in churches, evil running amok etc. Nothing has changed really situations perhaps, are somewhat different, but bottom line, “**this world is not our home**”!!

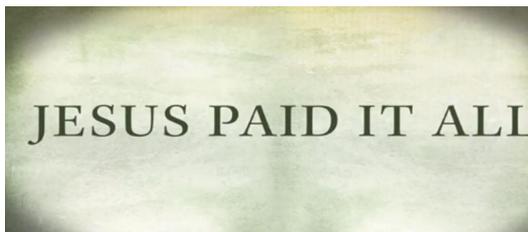
The most beautiful and blessed part, I think, of Resurrection Day, is that it never ends! It’s never over!! Jesus Christ is raised from the grave, has conquered death, and lives forevermore!! “*Oh death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory*” (1 Cor. 15:55). Because He lives, we **can** face tomorrow. We can face life and we can face death!

Having this hope takes away the fear of any, what could be, frightening, issues of life. Having this hope takes away any anxiety and fear that might try to creep in. Having this hope makes me smile. Having this hope brings “joy unspeakable”!!

We will celebrate Resurrection Sunday on April 17th this year. Jesus Christ is alive!! I think of the hymn, “Jesus Paid it All”

*“Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.”*

I leave you, Defenders, with one question on which to ponder. What does Jesus’ victory over death **personally**, mean to you?



Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives!

Moment of Truth

Today is Good Friday, a very solemn but important day in the Christian faith. Although many believe Jesus was put to death by the Romans and the Jews, He actually went to the cross willingly.

He said in John 10:18, No one takes My life from Me. I lay it down so that I may take it up again. He said in Matthew 26:53 He could call down legions of angels to save Him from the cross, but doing so would not fulfill the scripture. Christ's purpose in being born was so that He could die. His death, on that first Good Friday, paid the penalty for your sin. And His resurrection from the dead on the 1st Easter Sunday opened the gates of heaven for you. It's a free gift. All you have to do is believe.

All of the politics and all of the fighting that goes on here on earth is of no consequence when you're about to take your last breath. All that matters then is whether or not your sins have been forgiven. Do you believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross? How you answer that is the difference between eternal life and eternal death.

The Difference

By Hank Arthur

On a beautiful hill just outside of town, stands a cross, sad and forlorn.
Its arms now empty show stains from the body it had held, which was beaten and torn.
The sign was still there for all to see—"Here hangs the King of the Jews."
Sunday is dawning, life must go on. But wait! Here is someone with news.

"It's empty, it's empty, they've taken Him away! The tomb was empty just now,
The stone was moved, the tomb was empty, but it all seemed different somehow.
The sun is shining and birds are singing, the shadows creep across the floor.
That old rugged cross made the difference. Nothing will ever be the same anymore."

Jesus suffered and died on Calvary, then rose triumphant from the grave.
He bore our sins and paid our debt, our poor lost souls to save.
When we stand before God at the Judgement and are asked what we have to say,
Jesus will answer, "The old rugged cross made the difference. There's nothing for him to pay."



Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Good Friday Service (April 15)	7:00 PM