

# The Death, Burial & Resurrection Group Writing Project



Featuring 15  
Christian  
Bloggers!



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# Introduction

**Faithful Bloggers** is a community for Christian bloggers. Our purpose is to provide a common ground where we can encourage one another to use our blogs for the glory of God. While we want to mix and mingle and have fun, our purpose is to help you build a blog that will glorify the Lord while also strengthening your relationship with Him.

## **Why was Faithful Bloggers started?**

As blogging continues to grow in popularity, a wonderful benefit to this “hobby” has arisen. The ability to meet new friends and form relationships is easier than ever. For those who are in rural areas or are housebound in some way, meeting someone is as easy as turning on your computer and relaying your thoughts. For Christians a challenge becomes apparent. Due to the rampant ungodliness that abounds on the Internet, the world of blogging is an overwhelming and often scary place to be. Where can a person who is striving to live the Christian life find an online area of common ground where she can build those godly relationships? Searching for Christian bloggers can be achieved through a simple search. It is overwhelming, however, to find that sense of community with a common purpose – becoming holy and serving our God – when we limit it to just searching through a search engine. Thus, Faithful Bloggers was born.

## The Project

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Faithful Bloggers issued a group writing challenge and 24 Christian bloggers stepped up and met the challenge.

### **The Challenge**

The topic for the second Faithful Blogger’s Group Writing Project was about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Each blogger selected wrote a post explaining what that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus means to them. It could be as long or as short as they wanted. It could be a personal testimony, a devotional, or Bible study in nature. The choice was theirs.

I hope you are blessed by the following devotions.

**Before the Throne of God Above** is an old hymn written by **Charitie L. Bancroft** in 1863.

The words to this hymn can be a bit difficult to understand at first; but, if you really look at them, you can see the Biblical truth that lies behind them, and really recognize the depth of our Savior's love for us. It's a truly great hymn to focus on as we enter the Easter season and remember the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord...

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea.  
A great high Priest whose Name is Love  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in Heaven He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died  
My sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,  
My perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,  
The King of glory and of grace,  
One in Himself I cannot die.  
My soul is purchased by His blood,  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ my Savior and my God!

Several different tunes have been used for this hymn, one of which is the same tune as "[Sweet Hour of Prayer](#)" composed by William Bradbury. But, a more modern tune was written by [Vikki Cook](#) to be used in worship services everywhere. The hymn has been recorded with this new tune by

numerous artists, including GLAD, Selah, and Go Fish. Here is the Go Fish version....

You Tube link -

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=ZBQyO3tyoao](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ZBQyO3tyoao)

Beautiful song, isn't it? I wanted to know more about the meaning behind this hymn, so as I was searching online, I found a blog by Charles Bumgardner, a professor at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Plymouth, MN. He has written an extensive article around the Biblical meanings of this hymn, and you can read it for yourself by clicking on this link here: [ORCHARD KEEPER](#)

-- Victoria, [He Holds My Right Hand](#)

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### ***Matthew 27 (verse from [BibleGateway.com](#))***

#### ***The Guard at the Tomb***

*<sup>62</sup> The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. <sup>63</sup> “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ <sup>64</sup> So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day.*

*Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.”*

*<sup>65</sup> “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” <sup>66</sup> So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.*

I don't know if it's a writer thing or just a curious Jesus girl thing but I'd like to know about Saturday. **We have details about “Good” Friday where Jesus was crucified. We know all about Resurrection Friday.**

### **So, what do you think Saturday was like?**

Matthew 27:62-65 gives us a glimpse and if I close my eyes, I can picture the scene. Those that loved Jesus are devastated and confused. Those that hated him are giving shouts of celebration and recounts of key moments.

Government officials are proud, they took down the biggest threat to their government with no fight from this so called king. Barabbas? The real criminal? I imagine he's overwhelmed with ideas on what to do with his new freedom.

**All of them, I can guess, are spending Saturday with one eye over their shoulder.**

**Haunted.**

**Scared.**

**Anxious.**

**Sick.**

I bet they all see shadows even in the peak of daytime that cause them to stop everything and look, wonder. Pilate and his officials took tentative steps all day. When Pilate brought a chalice to his lips I'm sure his hand shook. The guards around the tomb exhausted in half the time it usually takes. **The mental strain of waiting on the promises will do that.**

Barabbas starts dozens of plans to satisfy self but can't complete one evil idea. He knows where he belongs and he can't shake it. For all the open spaces and freedom he slinks in a corner, the tomb in view. He wraps his knees to his chest and rocks back and forth. The same position he had in prison.

The devil paces back and forth, anxiety quadrupling with every step and hands over his ears. His minions keep repeating what he already knows.

*What about the third day?*

He knows God's word, he just twists it, but he knows. And I suspect he can't enjoy his victory because he knows it is short lived.

Heaven is muted. A sense of grief and confusion weaves throughout the streets of gold. Something is in the works. But what?

God hid His usual palette of color and painted a bleak gray scene for the world to interact in that Saturday. Shadows and phantom voices stalked

everyone who ever heard of or knew Jesus. Anxiety and fear reigned. Guilt and accelerated exhaustion flooded thoughts, plans and celebrations.

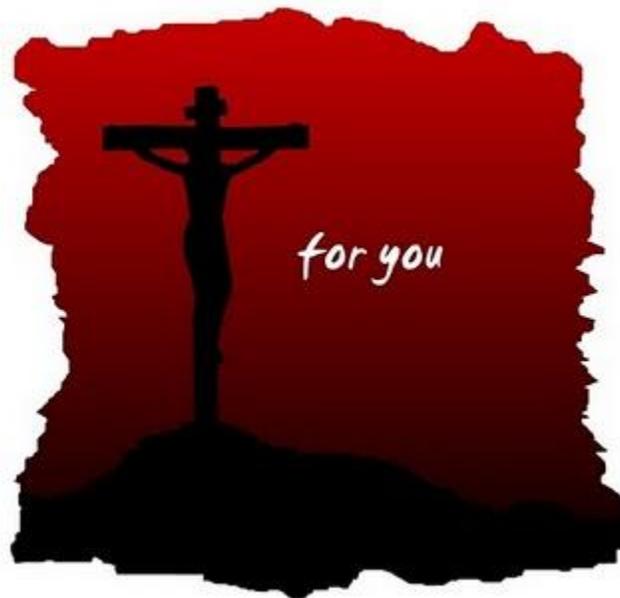
That is what I think happened that Saturday.

How about you? What do you imagine happened?

-- Julie Arduini, [JulieArduini.com](http://JulieArduini.com)

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Please Forgive Them



*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16*

My body is racked with pain.... searing, piercing pain. The kind of pain only death can quell.

I see the crowd looking upon my tattered and bruised body. I see the faces of the believers, of the sinners through my blood drenched eyes.

Some laugh, some cry. I want to scream, **WHY, WHY?**

My body is dying, the crowd cheers as I am poked and prodded to see if I

still breathe. *"Am I not flesh? Am I not a man, like you?"*

*"You cut me I bleed, you nail me to a cross **I DIE!**"*

I died for the sinner who did not believe I was the Messiah, I died for the believer who knew **I WAS!**

My death did not come quickly, I died a slow, agonizing death.

The crowd yells, "Jesus, Son of God save yourself. Where's the miracle of your God?"

I say aloud, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

I am dead now, my head hangs down, but still I am prodded and pierced just to be sure. The Roman's don't want the false prophet performing any miracles on their shift.

I am taken off the Cross of Death... my family is saddened, the believers are mournful, the sinners are rejoiceful that the trouble maker is dead..

I am cleansed of the blood and wrapped in the clothing of the dead and taken to my burial place.

I lie there three days heavily guarded, just to be sure no miracle will occur and **I AM REALLY DEAD!.....**

My final resting place is not there, but in the arms of my Father...

A place all believers will one day be because I died for the sinner, so he may live.

-- Debra Elliott, [Writing with Debra](#)

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## His Death and Resurrection Promises Life

As a little girl I remember being told the story of Jesus rising from the dead on the third day. I can vividly remember the picture depicted to portray this miraculous event. A tomb, with a huge boulder that had been rolled away

showing it empty! I picture Jesus standing outside the tomb clothed in a white robe, a smile across his face and his arms stretched out wide to either side. He is surrounded by light, glowing in God's glory!

At the time, this was just a story read to me at Sunday school when my family used to go. And sadly, that is all it was, just another children's story that didn't become anything more to me. At a young age I accepted Jesus into my heart because my mom told us that is what we should do. I don't remember going to church on a regular basis. I didn't know Jesus, really didn't know anything about Him, especially who I was in Him, who He was in me and not even how much He loved me. I had no clue how much I needed Him.

Approximately 32 years later, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, asked him into my heart again, confessed my sins and asked for His forgiveness. This time it was different because this time I knew I needed Jesus. This time I knew I am a sinner and this time I knew I wanted a deep relationship with Him. I wanted to know more about Him, and fully understand who I AM in Him and who He is in me, to feel His perfect and abundant love!

I felt new. I felt like a baby learning things for the first time, so hungry and thirsty for God. I felt at peace and loved and joyful! I wanted to shout out to the world! About eight months later it was Easter. I was so excited because Easter had a whole new meaning for me! I read about the Passover in the Bible. I read again about Jesus' ministry and his crucifixion. I really began to imagine what it must have been like for Jesus. How much pain He endured emotionally (rejected and accused of something he was not) and physically (the beatings, a crown of thorns forced onto His head, nails through each hand and feet) and as He bared the weight of all our sins feeling His separation from God.

This week when I read The Death, Burial and Resurrection is the topic for Faithful Bloggers group writing project I wasn't sure I would participate because I didn't think I was qualified to write on this topic. I feel like I'm

still learning and then realized, wait a minute? Isn't that part of the journey? To continually learn and grow in God's word, in our faith, in His love and grace and ... I could go on and on. I love it when I read a scripture I have read many times before and all of a sudden it seems to speak directly to my heart as if I am reading it for the first time. This is because God's Word is alive and He is NOT dead! Jesus is the resurrection and the life!

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26*

Without Jesus we are dead in our sins. When we accept Him as our Lord and Savior, ask for His forgiveness and believe He died on the cross for us, we become made new, washed clean by His blood. As believers we are alive in Him. We become resurrected; our life is raised from sin's death. But that is not all! When our time on earth is over, we will enter eternal life with the lover of our souls!

-- Dawn, [The Most Perfect Gift](#)

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Thank You Seems so... Not Enough

I am participating in a group writing project for [Faithful Bloggers](#) that has the theme of "Death, Burial, and Resurrection."

I've had the title of the project rolling around in my head for a while now, but just was not able to put anything down in writing. Then, I started reading a book called *Choosing Gratitude* by Nancy Leigh DeMoss and this line caught my attention:

"Try...to sustain persevering faith--without gratitude--and your faith will eventually forget the whole point of its faithfulness, hardening into a practice of religion that's hollow and ineffective."

I thought of the times when I have gone through the motions of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, maybe even acknowledging its power, without truly experiencing deep gratitude for what I've been given because of it.

I can experience life to the fullest when I live with thankfulness for the forgiveness and mercy available to me because of what Christ did.

So why is it that I don't live that way, that we as believers don't live in that attitude of thankfulness more often? The reasons probably vary, but I would venture to say that many times we get so caught up in the everyday responsibilities, problems, and pettiness that we forget the big picture. Christ died, rose, and is coming again--for us!

When we focus our attention on that, saying "thank you" doesn't seem nearly enough! How can we better express and live a life of gratitude? Let your imagination soar! Sing, dance, talk, write, get to know the One who saved you, and the list could go on!

Let me close with Paul's prayer from Ephesians 1:17-20:

"I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms..."

-- Lisa Walters, [The Army Chaplain's Wife](#)

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***"Salvation is not a human achievement; it is a gracious gift of God." (R.C. Sproul)***

So Christ came and died and not only did He die but he rose from the dead three days later! And if that is not amazing enough in and of itself .. He did

it so that he could have a relationship with you and me. Did you catch that?? He did it so that he could have a relationship with YOU!

Sometimes I think we forget that it was a personal thing. We realize that He came and died so that we can spend eternity with Him in heaven...we are so happy that we are saved from hell...but what about that period of time between our birth and when we get to go be with Jesus in heaven.. Ya' know life? Hmm, there could be various answers here, such as...I better get out there and serve God because he paid the ultimate price for me, or I believe in Jesus...so I don't have to spend eternity in hell but until then I am just gonna do what I want.. I mean as long as I am a "good" person right?

But I have come to the conclusion as of late that neither of those is the way that God intended for us to live. Now before you get all in a tiff, I am not saying that there is anything wrong with serving God or being a "good" person with morals. But what I am saying is that those things should be in response to the love relationship that we have with God. Not a requirement. I think as humans we feel like we need to do our part, we need to be a good person and try uphold the Ten Commandments/the law. We forget that the work of salvation has been done.

*Galatians 2:20-21 says "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."*

It's not our strength, goodness, or acts of service...it is all God!

*Ephesians 2:8-10 says "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*

So let's stop striving and embrace the free gift of grace that God is offering us, lets worship him for the fact that he endured Death, Burial and Resurrection so that He could have a relationship with us.

-- Tobi, [Simply Jesus Ministries](#)

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Are you afraid to die?

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If you're not, you should be.

If you are, you don't need to be.

We all know and understand that death is a fact of life. What many people choose not to believe is that judgment after death is as much an inescapable fact as death itself.

**Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**

Are you afraid to die? If you're not, you should be. Hell is real, and it's not a party, even if all your friends **are** there.

Oh, the Devil would like you to believe that it is, but that's not what Jesus said. Jesus described it as a furnace of fire, outer darkness, and a place where there would be wailing and weeping and gnashing of teeth. Eternity is a long, l-o-n-g time. Are you sure that's the kind of environment in which you want to spend "forever?"

"But a loving God wouldn't send people to Hell," you say.

He doesn't. He leaves the decision as to where you'll spend eternity in your hands and He honours your decision. He wants you, and all men to be saved (1 [Tim 2:4](#)).

**2Pe 3:9 ¶ The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing**

**that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

If you choose to reject Him, that isn't His fault. He's made an escape from Hell; all you have to do is take it.

"I'm not going to Hell! I'm a good person!" you insist. "I take care of my family, I'm faithful to my spouse, I don't steal, I've never killed anything except the odd spider! Sometimes I even go to church!"

But are you perfect?

"I'm the closest thing to perfect you'll ever see," you reply.

I'm not the one you have to convince. Are you perfect in God's sight? You don't steal and you're not a murderer, but how do you measure up against the rest of the Ten Commandments, for example?

**Jas 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**

We're all sinners (Ro 3:10). Have you ever told a lie? One lie makes you a liar, and that's sin. (Tell me you've never lied and you've just told a lie!)

How are you with "keeping up with the Joneses?" Do you have to have the fancier car and the bigger house? You're being covetous, and that's sin.

Have you taken the Lord's name in vain? God says He "will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Ex 20:7). Because that's sin. You get the point....

The wages of sin is death (Ro 6:23) and if you're not absolutely, one-hundred percent perfect in every way - as perfect and holy as God Himself is - then you're not good enough to go to Heaven. [For the record: not one of us is (Ro 3:23).]

"But that's impossible!" you exclaim. "No one is good enough to go to Heaven? That's not what I was taught! I was afraid to die before and now I'm really scared! I don't want to go to Hell!"

**Mt 19:25 When his disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?**

**Mt 19:26 But Jesus beheld *them*, and said unto them, **With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.****

Are you afraid to die? If you are, you don't need to be.

**Ro 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

While He was on this Earth, Jesus Christ was absolutely, one-hundred percent perfect in every way - as perfect and holy as God Himself is - and He is the only One Who was good enough to go to Heaven. After all, He came down from Heaven (**Jn 3:13,6:38**).

He voluntarily died a cruel, tortuous death by **crucifixion** to pay the penalty for **our** sins, not His own (remember the wages of sin is death, **Ro 6:23**) because He didn't have any. When you understand and accept that He died in your place, then He gives you His righteousness and God accepts you as absolutely, one-hundred percent perfect in every way: you have been justified (made just as if you'd never sinned). God sees you as good enough to enter into His Heaven!

"But why would God do that?" you ask. "Why would He sacrifice His Son to save me, or any of us?"

That's a good question, and one that can only be answered by saying, "He did it because He wanted to." It's where **John 3:16** comes into play: **For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life,** and the second half of **Ro 6:23: but the gift of**

## **God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The most important part is that even though Jesus Christ died to pay for our sin, He didn't stay dead! The Son of man was delivered into the hands of sinful men and crucified, and on the third day He rose again! (Lk 24:7)

**1Co 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?** If the wages of sin is death and He died to pay for our sin, then in His resurrection, we have victory over sin and death through Him!

**Ro 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**

**Ro 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

I said earlier that if you choose to reject the Lord, that isn't His fault. He's made an escape from Hell; all you have to do is take it.

If you reject Him, then you've volunteered to pay the penalty for your own sin yourself. The wages of sin is death (Ro 6:23) - God cannot forgive unless blood is shed (Heb 9:22). (Why? Because those are God's rules and since mankind is His creation, we ultimately play by His rules.) So if you're not going to receive forgiveness through the blood of Jesus Christ, then you're going to pay for your sin with your own and receive the punishment of Hell - the punishment He took when He died.

The choice is yours.

-- Laura Brandt, [Laura's Thoughts on Scripture](#)



## The Veil Was Torn



*And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ~ Matthew 27: 50-51 NIV*

*When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. ~ Hebrews 9: 11-12 NIV*

As we approach Easter, it is good to be reminded of the incredible gift we have been given, so beautifully portrayed by the tearing of the curtain in the temple. Before Jesus' death, mankind was separated from God by sin. This was symbolized by the curtain which separated the Holy of Holies, the dwelling place of God, from the people. Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement to offer a special sacrifice for the sins of the people. Besides this yearly sacrifice,

sacrifices were given daily to atone for sin. While the shed blood of animals showed the seriousness of sin, they were never sufficient. They only pointed the way to the perfect sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

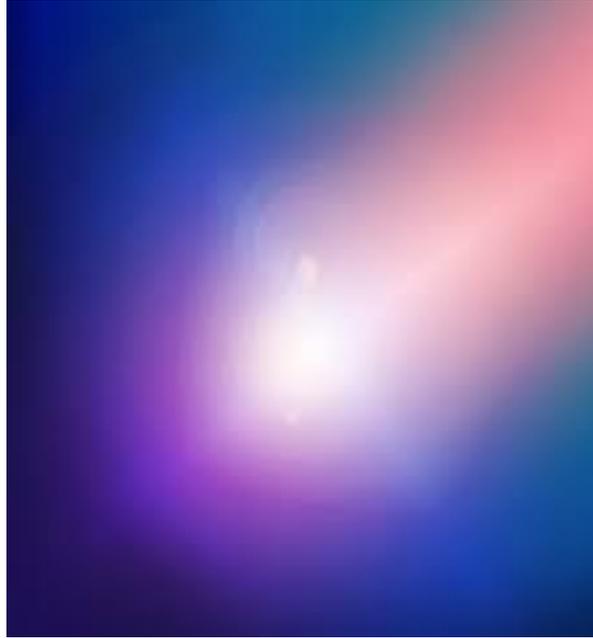
At the moment Jesus died, the curtain separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom, dramatically showing it was God who reached down to man. Jesus had paid our debt in full.



The tearing of the temple curtain is an historical account verified by those living at the time. The curtain was approximately 60 feet high. It was finely woven of blue, purple and scarlet material and was four inches thick. According to first century historian Josephus, horses tied to each side could not have pulled the curtain apart. The tearing of this curtain at the moment of Jesus' death dramatically illustrates that the shedding of Jesus' blood was the sufficient atonement, once and for all, for sin. Now the way into the Holy of Holies was open to all people through Christ. He is our high priest.

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ~ John 3:16 NIV*

Isaiah foretold this day when he wrote, "The people walking in darkness have **seen a great light**; on those living in the land of the shadow of death **a light** has dawned." (Isaiah 9:2)



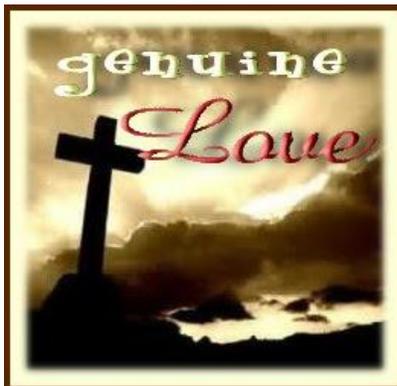
Heaven touched Earth and the Earth would never be the same.

***Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! ~ II Corinthians 9:15  
NIV***

-- Patti Hanan, [A Grateful Heart](#)

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WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THE CROSS?



Standing at a distance, she gazed at the man's crucified body, dying on a cross, as her heart pounded in agony. Deep sobs heaved her chest. Her knees began to buckle.

**What brought her to the cross?** A mother's love. For this was Mary's son, dying for the world.

John the disciple, who had leaned upon this Divine Man so many times, stood with Mary, in utter dismay.

**What brought him to the cross?** Genuine love and deep gratitude.

With John and Mary stood Mary Magdalene, trembling. Tears of grief streamed down her cheeks.

**What brought her to the cross?** Love, for the forgiveness of the sins in her life, for scripture says, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much." (Luke 7:47a NKJV)

Kneeling on the ground at the foot of this Man's cross, the soldiers cast lots for His tunic.

**What brought them to the cross?** Their duty. And now their greed.

Two thieves hung on either side of this cross.

**What brought them to the cross?** Violation of the law.

Simon the Cyrenian was there.

**What brought him to the cross?** Bearing the burden of the cross to the hill of sacrifice.

The multitude gathered, murmuring to each other.

**What brought them to the cross?** Anger. Belittlement. Wonderment. Doubting.

The chief priests stood with the scribes, poised in pride and defiance.

**What brought them to the cross?** To mock Him, thinking it all utter foolishness.

What did all these have in common? They all needed the very thing for which this Man Jesus was dying on the cross: Salvation and the forgiveness of their sins.

Some accepted it; some rejected it. Paul later wrote to the Corinthians, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor. 1:18 NIV)

**What brings *you* to the cross?** Love? Gratitude? Grief? Duty? Violation of God’s Law? Bearing a burden? Anger? Belittlement? Wonderment? Doubt? Pride? Defiance? Mocking?

Do you come weeping in pain, sorrow, or loss? Emptied of hopes and dreams? Feeling lost in your circumstances?

Without the cross, there would be no Garden of Easter Gladness...to lift you up, to wipe away your tears, to remove your grave clothes of fear and depression.

Walk that trail from the cross to Easter’s Garden of resurrection. See your Saviour Jesus standing there, waiting for you.

He compassionately whispers your name and says, “*Do not wear the grave-clothes stained with the tears of grief. Come into My garden of beauty and I will give you the robe of Easter’s resurrection gladness. Take My Hand and let Me lead you along the path to life everlasting. I will never leave you nor forsake you. I gave My life that you might live eternally with Me.*”

Jesus always brings us hope of resurrection as on that first Easter morn. He says, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:25-26 NKJV)

**Do *youbelieve* this?** If so, weep no more. May you experience the salvation and forgiveness of the cross, the power of the resurrection, and embrace the risen life in a new way this Easter season.

**What brings you to the cross? May it be...Genuine Love.**

-- Lynn Mosher, [Heading Home](#)

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## **Death, Burial and Resurrection**

It has been awhile since I have had a deadline to get a post written. A week ago I said 'yes, sign me up' to this writing project thinking I have plenty of time to come up with something about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Easy, right? It is due April 1, and it is now 9:20 on Thursday night. What to say about a subject that is woven through God's Word from Genesis to Revelation? What to say that hasn't already been said? I want to be original and I want my "outstanding post" to be read by many. I want to help others understand how great God is and what He did to make me His friend...these thoughts and many others have kept me from writing this post until tonight.

Those thoughts and motives are full of 'Jody' and not Jesus.

My intentions and ideas have not sprung from a heart and mind spent in prayer regarding this subject, but of trying to come up with a catchy title and a post to match. But isn't that what Jesus came to do? Show me my sin and pride, nail it to the cross where he died?

The death, burial and resurrection of my Savior now enables me to come boldly into God's presence through his shed blood.(Hebrews 10:19),

confessing my sins to a loving God who calls me his daughter, because of Jesus' blood and his righteousness.

I was dead in my sins..."BUT GOD who is abundant in mercy because of His great love for me, made me alive with Jesus even when I was dead in my sins, I am saved by grace through faith, it is God's gift and I am forever His"

Ephesians 2:1-10

I don't need to elaborate more on the subject. It's in the Bible, Old Testament and New. Read it for yourself, it will change your life forever.

-- Jody, [JodyLynne](#)

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In the hymn "*Christ Arose*", Robert Lowry expresses the hope conveyed during this Easter season in the rousing chorus as it explodes with joy:

*Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Our **Lord Jesus** left the confines of this earth and stepped into the heavenly realm on **Resurrection Sunday**, three days after dying on a wooden cross for humanity's sins on Mount Calvary. This is precisely why Christians celebrate the Easter Season.

We know from Scripture that Jesus made several appearances after His resurrection, but *what significance does this event hold for you and me today?*

John Chapter 20 records Jesus' resurrection on the first day of the week, that being Sunday. Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb early, while it was still cloaked in darkness. She saw that the stone in front of the tomb had been rolled away. Upon hearing her report, Peter and John ran to the tomb and discovered "*the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself*" (vs. 7). After they departed, Mary stood outside weeping, peering inside the

tomb. She conversed with two angels and explained that someone had taken away the body [of her Lord] and turning, she saw a man she perceived to be the gardener. Jesus lovingly and compassionately spoke to her, *“Mary!”* He assured her that He was; *“ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.”*

In Luke 24:13-32, we have the account of Christ appearing on the road to Emmaus. Two followers of Jesus were traveling and conversing about all of the events of the past few days concerning Jesus of Nazareth. Unbeknown to them, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. They told Him all of the hopes and dreams of many in Jerusalem who thought the prophet would accomplish in order to redeem their beloved Israel. They even mentioned it had been three days since it happened, and that certain women had discovered His tomb empty. Then in verses 25-26 Jesus said to them, *“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”*



Later, in Luke 24:33-48, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of His disciples as they gathered in Jerusalem to pray saying, *“Peace to you.”* He showed them that He is flesh, not spirit, and proceeded to instruct them about His fulfilling what was written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Himself. Even those who doubted His appearing finally proclaimed who He was. Thomas said, *“My Lord and my God!”*

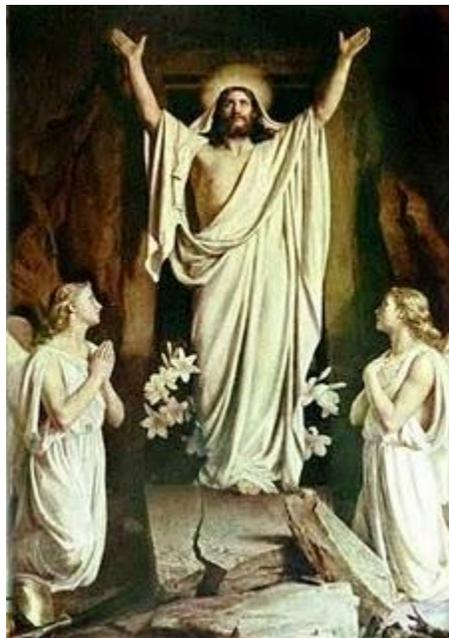
Now turn to John chapter 21. Jesus appears to seven of the disciples after a long night of fishing. They caught nothing. But in the morning, Jesus said to them, *“Children, have you any food?”* After an answer of “No”, He then said, *“Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.”* The disciples dragged the net, full of large fish to the shore, and after eating breakfast they knew it was Him, though they were afraid to question Him. Then in chapter 21:15-23 we witness the personal conversation between Jesus and Peter. Jesus is tenderly restoring Peter to

Himself by asking Peter three times if he loved Him. Jesus tells him, “*Feed My lambs*”, “*Tend My sheep*”, and “*Feed My sheep*”. Jesus is preparing Peter for the work ahead as leader of the church after He has departed. Then He tells Peter to set his sight on Him and “*Follow Me.*” Peter asks about the *other* disciple, and Jesus tells him, “*If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.*”

So what do we glean from the Lord’s visitations to His followers after He was raised? How do we apply those same lessons and revelations to our lives? We discover that we experience the very same things as did the earliest disciples. ***Jesus is still:***

***Giving*** a gentle touch and reassurance, as He did with Mary at the tomb;  
***Expounding*** truth and wisdom to us, like He did on the road to Emmaus  
***Stilling*** fear and uneasiness, as He did for the disciples in the upper room;

***Blessing*** and bestowing a commission to us, as He did for his followers;  
***Providing*** for and encouraging His children, as He did for His disciples;  
***Restoring*** and leading you and me, as He did for one of His dearest disciples.



*Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection gives us reason for celebration as we rejoice in the Lamb’s blood, marvel at the Father’s acceptance, and glory in our eternal salvation secured by Heaven’s cherished and earth’s gift*

*from above...*

-- Deborah McCarragher, [God Mission Possible](#)

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I was raised in a Christian home, my grandfather is a minister, I went to Bible College...I of all people should have know-ing and understand-ing of the love of God.

Most of my life, until about 5 years ago, my idea of God was that He was a stern disciplinarian. There were bad, ugly, awful, painful things that happened in my life starting when I was 7 and my grandmother whom I dearly loved died of cancer. I don't remember my grandmother ever not being sick. My perception was that "bad things" were God's way of punishing me, of reigning down on me to force me to do His will. I perceived that "bad things" happened because I didn't swallow religion and embrace it without any questions...I questioned everything from as far back as I can remember, I questioned. My favorite question was: But, why?

As a young adult, 22-23 years of age, I attend Bible College and lived on a Bible School campus. I dreamed of going to Bible College anticipating that all of my questions would be answered. Instead what I got was more questions than answers. Bible College was just more rules that taught me to follow a handbook, not God. It taught me to look at people in leadership, not look up to God.

(Though I was bitter a long time, I have learned to forgive, let go and have chosen to get over it. I am not against Christian Education, in fact I embrace it and dream of my church one day having a Christian School. There is a right way and a wrong way to do Christian Education and the focus of Christian Education should be looking up to God, looking to the Bible and not replacing the Bible with a handbook. This however is a topic to be explored more thoroughly another time.)

Looking back on that experience I understand that where ever/ whenever there is a mighty presence of God, then there will be a mighty presence of evil, of demonic powers and of satin himself. At that time I was either too

young, too immature or too unwise to discern the difference...or perhaps Satan himself came as an angel of light. Due to some events that happened on campus I became very confused. I felt like I was in the power struggle, that I was being pulled from limb to limb. There were many days that I felt as if I was physically being pulled in two different directions—God on one side, Satan on the other— that I was being ripped apart from the inside out. One day it became more than I could deal with any longer. I was at a breaking point, I had to make a choice I could no longer live day to day with that kind of power struggle consuming my being, my life...consuming me.

I made the wrong choice. I told God to leave me alone. To go away, to get out of my life, that I was done. God is a gentleman, He left. He walked out of my life. That was in the Fall of 1998. From that time until 2005 a lot happened. I will not go into details right now, but suffice it to say I did not recognize my own life (and neither did anyone else around me). All I will say is that sin will take you farther than you want to go and cost you far more than you want to pay. The devil is good at one thing: lies and deceit. The price estimate he placed on disobedience is never accurate and always underestimated.

It was not until that I was at this point in my life, that God used events in my life to bring me to a place that was desperate, a place where I had no one and nothing left, a place where only God could find me...that I began to truly understand God was not simply a stern disciplinarian. Yes, He hates sin. Yes, He will punish sin. If you do not confess your sin and ask God to forgive you of your sins, then there will be death and as Mark 9:48 NIV states, 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.' Despite God's hatred of sin, He loves the sinner. He loves the sinner in an unfathomable, unexplainable, extraordinary way...a divine, holy and perfect love.

During this period though, God was working in my life in ways I could not see and He never stopped loving me. While I had told Him to go away, and assumed He had, He was in fact never farther away than my next prayer...I just didn't realize it.

Somewhere between the fall of 2004 and Sept/Oct 2005 God began to “court me”. Softly and tenderly He courted me. Like a long lost love. God began to overwhelm me with His great love. This verse came alive to me, Rom 5:8 NIV But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we

were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Before I ever started seeking God or asking that God come back into my life, I became overwhelmed with the idea that God loved me. God knew everything about me, all I had ever done, thought or said. He knew all of the horrible details, there was nothing hidden from Him. I could hide what I had done from family and friends, but I knew I could not hide from God. Yet, in spite of His knowledge of my life, my sin and my past...despite Him know the path I had chosen to walk down He LOVED ME. He loved me so much in fact that He died JUST FOR ME. (The amazing part is that He died just for you too.)

While he didn't use this verse, John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends, my 10<sup>th</sup> grade public school history teacher demonstrated this concept using the scenario of a soldier who throws himself on the live grenade killing himself but saving the lives of his friends. I began to understand that God gave His life to save my life. God gave His life that I might live. He saved my life at the cost of His own life. He "fell on on the live grenade". Verses I had grown up hearing, but not knowing, not understanding, began to take on new meaning, especially this passage. John 3:16-18 NIV 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

I began to gain new insight to verses such as this:

Matt 5:43-46 NIV 43 "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get?

Rom 5:10-14 NIV

10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! 11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God

through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— 13 for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law.

Rom 6:17-18

17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Rom 6:11 NIV In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

God's amazing love, His infinite patience, and His unceasing presence as was amazing. He lovingly courted me and I began to find my way back to Him...back home to the Father who was watching and yearning for the prodigal daughter. I hated church; I hated Christians; I was very bitter.

When I first started seeking a personal relationship with God I wanted nothing to do with church...that was where the two-faced Christians hung out. In fact that was where they gathered and I ran far from Church, but I also ran into a deeply personal, meaningful relationship with God. He healed my pain and softened my heart.

I begin to learn that not all Christians are/were two-faced. Most were also seeking a deep and meaningful relationship with God. God's love brought me back to a relationship with Him, brought me back to church and brought me back to my family that I had abandoned. To this day I will say that I am an awful Christian, I don't like following the handbook or doing things by rote, ritual or just because I am told to. I still want to know the

Why? I do have a very deep meaningful relationship with God, my Abba Father, my Papa God. A relationship I would never have had without His divine love.

No one had to tell me I was a sinner, I knew that truth all too well. What I didn't know, at least in the beginning, was if God still loved me despite that. Yet His love letter to me, the Bible confirmed and affirmed that it was love. God loved me despite my disobedience, despite my sin, despite my rejection. His greatest desire was for me to obey Him, trust Him, have faith in Him and love Him unreservedly. I cannot think of the ***The Death, Burial, and Resurrection*** without being reminded of God's infinite matchless divine love.

-- LaDonna Rae, [iFrog](#)

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Standing at the Crossroads



This is what the LORD says: *“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it,*

*and you will find rest for your souls.” - Jeremiah 6:16*

Surprise everyone... today I've written a second blog post. I am participating in a group writing project and wanted to be sure to share my post with my readers. The topic of our group project is **The Death, Burial and Resurrection** – hope you enjoy!

Christians all around the world will soon be celebrating the death, burial and resurrection of our Savior. As a young girl, I grew up memorizing and repeating the words of the *Apostles Creed*, and Easter time always reminds me of the meaning behind those words that are so precious to me.

The Creed itself dates back to the very early times in the Church, about half a century or so from the last writings of the New Testament. The words of the *Apostles Creed* offer a summary of the fundamental teachings of the Bible. It is time-tested, rooted in biblical history and its simplicity makes it easy to share with others. The Creed was and still is my personal Declaration of Faith.

### The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
the Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

In the preface of his book *“The Creed,”* Michael Bauman, asks readers the following questions:

- Can you define your Christianity?
- Do you know what you believe?
- What are the essentials of faith?
- Can you give an answer for the hope that is in you?

In speaking the words of the *Apostles Creed*, I know that my faith isn't just an understanding of what *I believe*, but a trust in the One that *I believe in*. Jesus' words found in John 11:25 tell us, *“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”* Christ took our

place at the cross and because God chose to raise Him from the grave, I can choose to accept the same gifts that were found at the cross.

DEATH... If we repent of our sin and ask Jesus into our life, we experience a death... the death to our sinful ways, not a physical death but a spiritual one.

BURIAL... Just as the disciples had to move forward after Jesus death not knowing how things would turn out, I know that I can find some of the same courage and conviction that transformed the disciples.

RESURRECTION... The resurrection gives the believer assurance of eternal life. Death could not contain Jesus and Romans 6:8 tells us, *“Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”* Through those words, I can experience the same anticipation of eternal life and victory found at the cross.

As *Easter* approaches I ask myself the question, *“What is next for my Christian walk?”* The answer is the same as it was when the Early Church was being established. The disciples continued their journey walking by faith. And so my journey continues... my next step may not be easy, there may be times when I am fearful, overwhelmed and at times, even terrified, but I know that Christ has called me to make a difference in the world. Second Thessalonians 2:14 tells us, *“He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

So, as I stand at the crossroad, I rejoice in knowing that my *hope* comes from the **Death, Burial and Resurrection** of the One who leads me.

**He has Risen....Hallelujah !**

-- Donna, [Peace, Love, and Sparkle](#)



Undertaking—the preparation of bodies for burial, to name the particular task—is not a job I’d choose to do, no matter how much it paid, but Mary, Martha’s sister<sup>1</sup>, embraced the role passionately when she anointed Jesus in the week before his death.

Of course, Jesus was still alive, and Mary probably didn’t realise the full significance of what she was doing until he mentioned it. But her actions weren’t for the faint hearted.

Here’s the story:

*While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman<sup>1</sup> came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.*

*When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.”*

*Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”*

*(Matthew 26:6–13. NIV)*

In John (12:3) it’s recorded that Mary also poured perfume on Jesus’ feet and wiped them with her hair, and that the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. What a breathtaking scene!

Ordinarily, at a banquet like this, an honoured guest would have their head anointed with a small amount of olive oil, for their refreshment, but Mary poured nearly *half a litre* of spikenard—an extremely costly perfume from North India—on Jesus’ head *and* feet. This was a year’s wages spilt in one

go, and in the eyes of many there, an outrageous waste.

On top of that, Mary wiped Jesus' feet with her hair. At that time, women never let down their hair in public (unless they were prostitutes). And the only people who would wipe a person's feet, let alone use their hair to do it, were servants. This was scandalous behavior.

Scandalous, outrageous, and in the words of Jesus—beautiful!

This was Mary's masterpiece, the thing she would be remembered for: her unrestrained, extravagant act of worship. She didn't care what anyone else thought; she just wanted her Master to know she loved him, especially if this was the last time she was going to see him.

Jesus had spoken many times of his coming death, and it's possible Mary sensed his time was near. So this was her send-off gift, and it was more significant than she realized.

In anointing him, she unwittingly prepared him for burial, and possibly—in line with the Old Testament practice—acknowledged him as her prophet, priest and king.

Of course, death wasn't the end of Jesus, and Mary *would* see him again. But this act of kindness, of service, of worship, would not be forgotten.

How would we like to be remembered? What will be the defining mark of our lives?

Will it be that we poured them out on Jesus?

1. Each of the four gospels contains an account of a woman anointing Jesus.

There is a lot of debate about the identity of the woman in each, and the number of events the gospels cover. In John, it is pretty clear that the woman is Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. In Mark and Matthew it is likely the same woman, although possibly, but not necessarily, a separate event. Luke is

almost certainly a different woman and a different event. **Having looked at the evidence, I'm inclined to think that Matthew, Mark and John record one event, involving Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. That is the position I've taken for this post.**

-- Chris Lovie-Tyler, [Blame Lewis](#)

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## Our Identification in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ.



As we draw closer to Easter - the time of year when we commemorate the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, my thoughts are not only of the traditional images of Easter, but also of the wonderful images of that glorious and life-changing day of a believers Baptism.

The glorious day, when we display outwardly, our inward faith in Jesus Christ and the day, when we are identified with Jesus Christ in His three acts, which secured and sealed our salvation - His death, burial and resurrection.

Baptism is the outward symbol, of what has already transpired in the heart, of the one who has repented and trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for full salvation. The word baptize means to dip, plunge, immerse, submerge. Almost, the last words of our Lord, in Matthew 28:19, were to, "Go ye

therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost". Listen.....this command is as valid today, as is the command to preach the Gospel to all nations - Jesus was baptized.....why not us!

**His Death** - as we go down into the water, we are saying that Jesus Christ died for our sins, therefore we now die to the sin in our lives. We are sharing in His death.

**His Burial** - Just as Jesus Christ was buried in the tomb, so when we are lowered beneath the water, our lives as sinners, are regarded as put out of sight. Our old nature, with all its failings are buried with Him.

**Resurrection** - As we rise up out of the water, we arise in the fullness of a new life, which the Lord demonstrated by His Resurrection.

Wow! :) Isn't it a fantastic moment, when we emerge from the waters, to bear witness that we have shared in Christ's victory over sin and death, and that we now intend to live in the power of His Resurrection? Oh! what tears of joy are shed, and what Divine laughter, as we are now dead to sin and alive to the wonderful living God, and we are now walking in the newness of life. The life, we live as a follower of Christ, must now truly express this truth found in [Galatians 2:20](#):

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

-- Carole, [The Faith Lounge](#)



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