



An End to the Agony of Death

“Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades” (Revelation 1:17b-18).

Jesus WAS dead, but Jesus IS alive. He died for our sins. He was resurrected for our salvation. We know that in Jesus *“all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form”* (Colossians 2:9). Jesus is fully God and fully man. This is important if we are to understand what His death and resurrection means to us. You and I are human beings in these fleshly bodies. Because we have a *“share in flesh and blood, [God] Himself [as Jesus] likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives”* (Hebrews 2:14-15). *“Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”* (Philippians 2:8), *“for Christ...died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit”* (1 Peter 3:18). Jesus did not remain dead. He was resurrected – He came back to life because *“God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power”* (Acts 2:24). Jesus was resurrected and His Body freed of the corruption brought to the body in death by sin. We see *“that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him”* (Romans 6:9).

Jesus died to reconcile us to God – any of us who will accept His substitution of Himself in our place on “death row.” He took our place because there was no hope for us to save ourselves from our sins. Each of us is guilty of sin and therefore an heir of death, since through the first man, Adam, *“sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned”* (Romans 5:12). We are enslaved to death, setting ourselves against God – even as enemies. Yet *“if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life”* (Romans 5:10). His Life! By this, God’s purpose *“has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”* (2 Timothy 1:10).

Immortality. Eternal Life. Life after death. This is God’s purpose and His desire for each man and woman in the world. But it only can be achieved by reconciliation to Him. This reconciliation is available to anyone who repents of sin and believes that Jesus Christ is Lord. Unfortunately, the Good News is seen as *“foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God”* (1 Corinthians 1:18). Especially today, the Gospel is seen as foolishness, but it is the power of God revealed to all mankind. On this Easter, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, entrust yourself to Jesus and be saved by the power of God. Jesus says to you and to me, *“Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end”* (Revelation 22:12-13). Amen.