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AN OUTREACH OF RICHARD HUGHES MINISTRIES, INC.

THE PEN OF A READY WRITER

...I SPEAK OF THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE MADE TOUCHING THE KING:
MY TONGUE IS THE PEN OF A READY WRITER (PSALM 45:1).

VOL. 15, No. 4

APRIL, 2024

NOW is CHRIST RISEN!

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

Christ's "coming" encompasses his first advent: *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty (2 Peter 1:16).* The term is also applied to his entrance at Armageddon (Revelation 19:17-21), on the day of Israel's deliverance (Romans 11:26), when Christ sets foot on this earth. God says of the Anti-Christ, who is that Wicked One: *whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming (2 Thessalonians 2:8).*

Christ's "coming" is always tied to resurrection, whether in the spiritual sense of the new birth (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) that results in the quickening of those dead in trespasses and in sins (Ephesians 2:1-9) or the literal, physical act of the adoption in the redemption of this vile body (Romans 8:22-23). When Christ arose as the firstfruits of the resurrection of life (John 5:29), the graves were opened and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after his resurrection (Matthew 27:52-53).

When Christ appears at Armageddon, the slaying of his enemies will be followed by the resurrection of those slain for the witness of Jesus and the word of God, during the seven years of Jacob's Trouble (Revelation 6:9-11; 7:14; 20:4). They will rise to rule with him for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

That same terminology, Christ's "coming," is also applied to the resurrection just before (or as) Jeremiah's prophecy (Jeremiah 30:7) begins. This is that physical adoption, the redemption of the body (Romans 8:23). The dead in Christ (believers) shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17). That Wicked shall then be revealed in his time, when *he who now letteth* is taken out of the way (2 Thessalonians 2:6-10).

Our conversation now is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself (Philippians 3:20-21).



Vickie Wilkerson
Hughes

Because He Lives!

With Easter just this past Sunday, my thoughts are on my Saviour and songs about His resurrection. The words to Gloria Gaither's song, *Because He Lives*, are very powerful. *Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know He holds the future, my life is worth the living just because He lives.*

Filled with fears as Gloria and Bill Gaither faced many challenges while she was carrying their third child, Gloria found a peace that only comes through our faith. God gave her the lyrics: *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.*

Life is hard at times. Sometimes we ask ourselves the question, 'How can I face today?' Almost every day we hear of someone that is going through sickness, struggling with the loss of a loved one or just facing the trials of daily living. We need words of encouragement. God can use songs like this song to be our encouragement. When we don't know what to say, we still know He lives!

Subverting the Souls of Men

At the Jerusalem Council, the issue was salvation. Certain men from Judea taught that one could not be saved without being circumcised (Acts 15:1). When Paul and Barnabas disputed this idea, they were admonished to go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Paul and Barnabas were received by the church and the apostles and elders; but, certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed still declared that it was needful to circumcise the Gentiles and to command them to keep the law of Moses (Acts 15:5). Something they themselves could not do.

Peter testified that God put no difference between the Jew and the Gentile, giving them the Holy Ghost and purifying their hearts by faith (Acts 15:8-9). He then declared on behalf of the apostles, *We believe that we shall be saved, even as they, through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ* (Acts 15:11).

James reminded the dissenters that the Old Testament prophets agreed with Peter, that God did visit the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name (Acts 15:14-17). He, therefore, concluded that they should not trouble the Gentiles which have turned to God (Acts 15:19).

The counsel sent letters, along with representatives, telling the church that they did not send certain men which sought to subvert their souls, saying *Ye must be circumcised and keep the law* (Acts 15:23-26).

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31st

I preached Sunday morning for Pastor Will George at the Oak Grove Independent Baptist Church, in Piedmont, SC.

G.I.B.P. Fellowship

April 1st - 2nd

It is my honor to represent the Independent Baptist Fellowship of Georgia, at the statewide Georgia Independent Baptist Preacher's Fellowship, hosted by Victory Baptist Church, Rossville, GA. Dr. Ernest Groce is the pastor.

Harmony Baptist Church

April 21st - 24th

Pastor Ronnie Waters has invited me to preach a revival at Harmony Baptist Church, Blakely, GA.

Camp Creek Baptist Church, April 28th

The Lord has opened the door to preach at Camp Creek Baptist Church, in Central, SC.