

## Faith in the Home

### Sixth Sunday of Easter: 1 Peter 3:8-22, "Real Resurrection, Real Hope."

When Jesus Christ was crucified, Pontius Pilate made an inscription of the so called "crime" Jesus was "guilty" of committing. Above the head of Jesus, was placed the words "King of the Jews." Jesus was sentenced to death for telling the truth. He was sentenced death for being who He was. God, the Son of God. He was killed for being rightful King of God's people. But He rose again from the dead, proving that He was exactly what He said He was. The resurrection does not only promise eternal life, but it also renews the mind while giving us a new perspective.

1 Peter, chapter 3 says: Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:13-17)

Christ's death and resurrection is a source of hope, not despair. First of all, eternal life is promised and God keeps His promises. In most cases doing good will not bring us harm, but if we suffer for doing good, the suffering in this world is only temporary. It is easy to fall into despair. But, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...." Jesus not only forgives your sins, and grants eternal life, but He promises to provide for you

Finally, when we are slandered for our walk with Jesus, our opponents will be put shame because we were walking righteously with God. It's tempting to go along with evil, and may even be easier for the short term, but evil will suffer even more during the judgement of God. Those who persevere with hope in God will not be put shame, but will receive blessings for it.

#### ***So how do we teach and model these things to our children?***

1. Remember, in most cases, doing genuine good will not bring you harm, and walking in God's righteousness will give you a good reputation even among non-believers. The key is remembering to let God define what is good through the Scriptures.

2. Our kids are growing up in a world where what is Biblical is considered backwards, and immoral, we need to teach them that every person is and has a soul. The priority of our very souls and being is to believe in Jesus. Why? We don't want them to go to Hell. Therefore, Jesus is worth whatever suffering we must endure in this world. Whatever we may have to endure as followers of Jesus, we must remember that the blessing of Jesus far "outweigh any present sufferings" in this world today. (Romans 8)

3. We need to pray for Christ's wisdom to help us distinguish between having compassion for the sinner without condoning the sin. We all struggle with sin. We all need Jesus. That is an important starting place for being a person who is able to share hope instead of just coming across as judgmental.

4. Remember that Christ is with us in all things. The temporary sufferings in the world are worth the blessings of having Him as our Lord.