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## LIFE OF LIFE

On Good Friday, Jesus died. Scripture records His excruciating crucifixion, and how He willingly gave up His life on the cross. In John 19:30 He said "**it is finished**" and bowed His head and gave up His spirit. After thrusting a spear into His side, the Romans pronounced Him dead. Then He was buried in a tomb.

Jesus was dead. But this was not the death of Jesus, it was the death of death. Jesus paid the penalty for sin, which is death, so that no one who trusts in Him need fear death ever again. He reversed the curse, as His death made atonement for sin.

And thanks be to God, the story does not end there. Just as Good Friday is all about the "death of death" so Easter Sunday is all about the "life of life." Because Jesus rose from the dead, His resurrection demonstrates that God is not dead and heaven is real. These aren't just interesting titles of books or movies, that's the reality of the resurrection. Jesus is alive!

John 20:30 underscores the authority of the Bible as it recounts the life and death and resurrection of Christ, "**these things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His name.**"

Interestingly, John opens his gospel with similar words, "**In Him (Jesus) was life, and this life was the light of men.**" (John 1:4). And between these book-ends, the gospel records some of the remarkable life and teachings and miracles of Jesus Christ. Paramount among them is the action of Holy Week, the heart of the Christian faith, the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies, the watershed of God's grace pouring out to mankind, as the cross of Christ is lifted up as the climax of human history.

His perfect sinless life provided Jesus the power to pay the penalty for sin, to make atonement, to redeem all who believe in Him. The price of His life offset the wages of sin, which is death. Jesus ransomed all those under the bondage of sin and penalty of death, who put their trust in His perfect work on the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:21 explains, "**For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.**"

So Easter Sunday provides proof positive that Christ is victor over sin and death. When the disciples came to His tomb that day, they found that angels had rolled away the stone, not so that Jesus could come out, but so that they could see in to an empty tomb. Jesus Himself rose Himself from the grave. He lives! Then He appeared to His disciples, one by one, two by two, to the twelve, and to more than 500 at one time.

Jesus is alive. And He is the life of life, real life. Just as the death of Jesus means the death of death - all who trust in Him no longer fear death... so the life of Jesus means the life of life - all who trust in Him are reborn to new spiritual life. John 1:12 describes this, "**to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**"

When you trust in Jesus you are re-born from above. You get a new start, as John 20:31 says "**that by believing you may have life in His name.**" You receive eternal abundant life. The new resurrected life of Christ is in you, to be lived out through you, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to understand God's Word and be transformed by it, and to live it out day by day, to overflow to those around you.

His life becomes your life. The life of life! Real life. Receive Him today, and live.