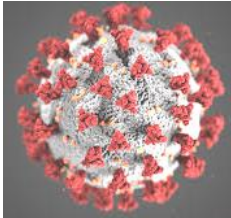


# QUARANTINE

April 12, 2020-- Resurrection Sunday  
Resurrection Quarantine

The resurrection is how I can know Jesus. I believe to the core of my soul that Jesus rose from a crucifixion death. I know it's true as a fact of history. It is what keeps me in the faith, and this applies to most believers I know. It applied to Paul the apostle, ***But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain*** (1 Corinthians 15:13-14).



Coronavirus is contagious but our faith is contagious. Unlike Covid-19 we must let Jesus coming alive infect us, and we need to spread it. Looking at its picture it seems harmless. It looks like a dingle ball that would hang from the rear view mirror of a low rider car or little squishy's a grandma would knit on the end of a scarf. Interesting, the virus with its bumpy stuff comes to your cells and like a locksmith finds the key to unlock the cells security locks. It enters, "Aha! I've come in to make you mine! You will be walking disease! I' try to hurt you and bring you death! I hate you, and you stupid, let me in!"



The empty tomb comes to our being and says, "I want to come in, but you have to choose to believe and let me in. No tricks. No forced entry. But I'll infect you only for good." When your every cell invites Jesus in, it's "Aha! I'm in! Life everlasting! Joy unending! Peace that passes understanding!, I got you! You're mine, all mine!" We need to let the Risen one in every cell of our body with His resurrection power! **I know He's risen, because I know Him. I know Him because He's risen.**

This is the account of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from Luke 24:1-12.

***24 But on the first day of the week,  
at early dawn,***

***they went to the tomb,  
taking the spices they had prepared.***

***2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.***

***4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee,***

***7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles,***

***11 but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.***

Seems like good news, right? The disciples knew the facts that He'd come back to life, but didn't understand how the resurrection was for them, especially Peter who denied Jesus.

They knew Jesus conquered death, but they didn't know the Jesus who'd risen from the dead. They didn't know how it would change their lives, after all they scattered and ran like chickens whose feathers were on fire. Even though Jesus was fine, they didn't know how His resurrection fit into their present situation and their future. So **they quarantined themselves.**

Our normal pre 2020 habit on resurrection day isn't to be quarantined but to come out! But the first Resurrection Day was actually more like it is now in *our* quarantine.

The first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. These excerpts from John 20 tell how the disciples quarantined after the resurrection. ***8 Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes.***

***19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, (their fear had more power over them than the reality of the resurrection) Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.***

***26 Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, (though they know He's risen their fear may have changed to caution, they needed instructions) Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."***

We'd think that with the good news that Jesus had risen, the disciples would come out in triumph. But the last they saw of Jesus was a gruesome sight, and they were concerned that they'd be next.

On the very first Easter the disciples were locked in their houses. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They wanted to believe the good news they heard from the women, that Jesus had risen. But it seemed too good to be true. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left their homes, their lives and the

lives of their loved ones might be at risk even after they met with the risen Jesus. Our circumstances may not change, but we will change when we meet with the risen Jesus, and get to know Him. This quarantine gives us much opportunity to meet with Jesus.

Alone in their homes they may have believed that hope was possible, even though it didn't seem real...yet. This year we get a taste of what the first Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then, after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, for our quarantine is a way of loving our neighbor, we'll gather together, sing and shout the good news that God brings life even out of death! That's what the disciples did.

**But how can Jesus' resurrection be real for us, not only on a special day of the year, but every day of every year?**

There is an answer. Paul the apostle who wasn't there on resurrection day, had a private and personal encounter with the risen Jesus and he told the church in Philippi in a letter to them. In a couple of verses from that letter, Paul said that Jesus' resurrection was part of His experience in knowing Jesus. The resurrection was Jesus' way for Paul to know Him. Like Paul, we know Him because He's risen, and He's risen for us to know Him.

Philippians 3:10-12-- ***10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.***

The last phrase, ***because Christ Jesus has made me his own*** means, He wants me. He wants everything that happens to me to be a reminder that He picked me, He has a purpose and power for me. He sees me and says, "you are my own."

Knowing Him and the power of His resurrection is the beginning of a process that's only fulfilled when we'll be resurrected when Jesus returns-- when we ***attain to the resurrection of the dead.*** Till then, we're on a journey to there no one has yet arrived, but it's coming ***because Christ Jesus has made me his own.***

It requires, sharing ***His suffering, yes it means life has pain.*** In the journey toward perfection His resurrection power gives us strength to put sin away and learn to sacrifice.

There is purpose in pain. It's a process that requires a believer to "***press on.***" The reason is relationship, knowing Him ***because Christ Jesus has made me his own.***

I now belong to Him. I used to belong to my sins. Now I can forgive the unforgivable in myself and others ***because Christ Jesus has made me his own.***

The Resurrection isn't just a fact, it's how I can know Jesus. Getting to ***know Him because Christ Jesus has made me his own*** is possible because He's alive, but not only does it say we may know Him, but we must know ***the power of His resurrection.***

As we share in His sufferings, all of our life's pain connects to His pain and gives pain purpose. And even though we have been hurt, and yes, we've hurt others, we can now: forgive the unforgivable, love the unlovable, and resist the irresistible temptations because we know Him who conquered by resurrection and He ***has made me his own.***

So knowing the risen Jesus helps us know His resurrection power and in that power, I can deal with my pain and sin because of His pain and He took my sin.

Life has lots of pain. Lots of pain means I need to know Him a lot and His resurrection power over pain, and as I face my pain and my sin, I know Him and His power. Let's use our time of solitude and separation to know Him better *because Christ Jesus has made me his own.* .

**Knowing Him brings purpose in pain. Everything we suffer now makes sense.**

His resurrection power means sharing pain with Jesus. Knowing Jesus means knowing His power in pain. Because of the resurrection, there is now **P-I-P**, or purpose in pain. It was during the quarantine transition for the disciples when they knew Jesus as "Master," then as "victim" then as "risen" (but asking, "what do we do with this risen thing?) to "Lord of Lords." They went through all of these stages of knowing Him so that they could tell His story to a world in pain.

They had to *share his sufferings* and *know Him in the power of His resurrection*. They learned that life isn't absence of pain, but living with power greater than pain, *the power of His resurrection* and getting to know Him, *because Christ Jesus has made me his own*.

To *share His sufferings* means a lot. Jesus' pain had many forms on many levels. **He could empathize with people who were hurting.** Even though He would raise Lazarus, He felt people's grief, in the shortest verse in scripture, *Jesus wept* (John 8:37). He knew it'd be ok, but he hurt because they hurt. **He wept over Jerusalem** because He felt their rejection, and felt their pain when they'd be judged.

**He felt the physical pain** of lashes to the bone, beard plucking, fists in the face, thorns in the scalp and forehead, exhaustion, falling to the ground with weight on His shoulders, heat of midday, thirst, nails piercing His hands and feet, struggling to breathe in asphyxiation, but that was nothing.

**He felt the pain of physical, emotional, and spiritual separation from God the Father** with nothing to cover the pain and He screamed in agony as the sin of the world separated Him from His Father, *Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachtani?* This was **absolute quarantine**. Jesus went **beyond social distance** with His father, He was **cut off**.

Because He is risen from the dead everything *He* suffered made sense. When we know Him, His resurrection changes our view of pain because everything he suffered, everything *we've* suffered can now make sense. So what does that mean?

First, lets look at where our pain comes from. Our pain can come from **our own mistakes**, which He took on Himself at the cross, and to come to the cross and ask His forgiveness is to *share His sufferings*. We can't always change consequences, and God may discipline us, but the debt of every sin I've ever committed, ever will commit, and may be committing now when I am in Christ is canceled! So even if I fail, **I may know**

**him and the power of his resurrection.** And most of our sin hurts others also, and we must pray His grace to those we've hurt. And it leads me to stop wanting to live in sin.

Also my suffering is because **I'm a victim** of someone else's evil, be it crime, abuse betrayal, or neglect, my sufferings become His, and as **I may know him and the power of his resurrection,** through my suffering, I **share His sufferings.**

Another reason for suffering is because **we live in a fallen world,** bad things happen! In this case, with a virus. The difference between a Christian and others when bad things happen, is that even if I'm in a difficult time I'm never alone, **I may know him and the power of his resurrection.** All of us may die, and Jesus died, so even if I die, I **share His sufferings. because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**

Another, **closer, more intimate** way to **share His sufferings** is choosing to suffer for another, or suffer for the gospel of Jesus. It's the highest form of suffering. It's what Jesus suffered. When a Christian sacrifices or suffers for others **"no greater love"** or suffers because of Christ, that's deep fellowship **because Christ Jesus has made me his own.**

What the resurrection does is it says to our pain, whether self-"inflictimization," our victimization, when bad things happen, and when suffering is my choice, suffering for God and for others, for the person who follows Jesus, pain always has purpose. **P-I-P.** Jesus' suffering had purpose so does yours and mine.

From sniffles to stage 4 cancer to Corona quarantine or the virus itself, from flat tires to earthquakes, from getting cut off on the freeway to terrorist attacks, from divorces to deaths, yes, disease, disaster, violence, death, there is purpose in it all for the believer in Jesus **because Christ Jesus has made me his own** and my pain serves His loving purpose.

Others' pain gives us a Jesus Christ opportunity to take their pain to God in prayer and to reach out His hand of love and help out when we can. Reagan said, You can't help everybody, but everybody can help somebody."



I think of the Samaritan's Purse hospital in Central Park saying to New York, "Jesus loves you! We're here for your pain."

Jesus' suffering and His death canceled my debt of sin, removed my sentence of 2<sup>nd</sup> death, guaranteed eternal life by, **the power of His resurrection. For anyone who has risen from the dead, has got to know what He's talking about,**

**there is not only purpose in pain, but power in pain! P&P-I-P!** Our pain has power *and* purpose.

It is first, so that *I may know him and the power of his resurrection*, and 2<sup>nd</sup> so that my pain may be a bridge to reach out to hurting people and bring God's purpose that they also, *may know him and the power of his resurrection* and we have eternal life, *because Christ Jesus has made me his own. HE IS RISEN!*