April 9, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Luke 24:5-7 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; <u>He has risen</u>! Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" (NIV)

Not only did Jesus die on a brutal, heinous cross, He also took the beatings and scourging of a Roman soldier who knew how to inflict pain. There is no doubt that His blood was poured out for us. No one could have gone through what He did and still live. But Jesus is not just someone. He did die, there is no doubt about this. His blood and water flowed from the puncture of the pericardium by the spear of the soldier who was trained to make sure the person was dead. Jesus died! Everyone knew it. Many people witnessed it. History records it. But on the third day, just as He said, He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose! **1 Cor. 15:55-58** *"Where, O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the LORD, because you know that your labor in the LORD is not in vain. (NIV)*

This is the greatest freedom ever granted by the Father. We were sentenced to death and separation from Him because of our own sin. We deserve what Jesus took. He took our place so that we could live with Him forever! He conquered sin and the grave. Death could not hold Him. Hell could not defeat Him. Sin could not take Him. He AROSE FROM THE GRAVE! HE DEFEATED HELL FOR YOU AND FOR ME! Can you shout AMEN! We have been set free! HE HAS RISEN!

Dear LORD, why do we look for the living among the dead? Jesus is alive! Help us to let Him shine through us so that others can see Him. He deserves our loyalty and constant praise. In Jesus Name, Amen