



Now we can be excited!

IT IS FINISHED.

On Good Friday I confessed on Facebook. I grew up in a very liturgical church. From Ash Wednesday through Holy Week the feeling was to be very somber. No Halleluiahs until Easter. Except Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday could be joyous. Yet even that was tinged with some sadness knowing what was coming the next week.

When someone says "He is Risen!" Holy Week-especially Good Friday - I think (by reflex) "Nooo! Not yet!" Foolish? Sure, a little bit. I know Jesus didn't become "unrisen" at any point in time. But as the years go on I'm grateful for the training to pause and consider what Jesus accomplished on the cross some 2021 years ago. It's pretty sobering stuff really.

I then asked my Facebook friends "How about for the next two days we sit in mourning? Mourning for even the need of the cross and our contribution to that need? We have the rest of the year to celebrate." I clarified to "grateful mourning".

Grateful because we know the some 2021 year ago death and resurrection of Jesus was the final sacrifice for our sins (Matthew 27:32-44; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:26-43; John 19:16-27,1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 1 Peter 2:24). Nothing more needed to be done except our placing our lives in God's hands (Eph. 2, John 3:16, Acts 10:43, Mark 16:16). It was finished. Which is comforting truth in it's security (Romans 8:38-39 and many others).

Not so much with any of the false religions we teach about. Right down the line Mormons, Jehovah Witnesses, World Mission Society Church of God, and so many others twist and warp Jesus' precious gift of salvation. Works are added. The cross wasn't enough. The insistence on joining their church as no one else's is the correct one. They fixed everything that time had broke after the Ascension (or the last apostle died). They interpret scripture for us as we cannot possibly understand on our own. Jesus is brought down to our created being status rendering his deity impotent and power of The Crucifixion and Resurrection null and void. Salvation isn't granted or assured until our death or the end times.

A false religion's church rules and calendar are not touchstone throughout the year. It's what saves them. Which cannot be comforting at all.

As Christians, even in our grateful mourning we know without a doubt we can say with joy "It is Finished" *then* "He has Risen!".

He has Risen Indeed!

Susan and Joe

Updates! We changed our giving platform from PayPal to Faithlife. Faithlife is a ministry dedicated to helping ministries "do their thing". They provide a presentation program, giving platform, website help, the ability for churches to have FB like pages for communication, and support by people who understand because their message is the same gospel as ours. The link is posted on our website- oddduckministries.org if you would like to partner with us in our efforts.

Speaking about the website! Go check it out. More items have been added including links to other ministries. The apologetics world is not big and I'd like to help others as we've been helped.

The course description is written for the class I'm teaching in the fall. It's been sent off to GRACE with the name "Introduction to the Pseudo Christian Religions". We are excited to bring our classes to a younger generation.

On April 30-May1 OddDuck Ministries will be at our first conference. Engage 2021 will be at New Hope Community Church in Palatine, IL. We will have a table set up and we'll get to meet a bunch of like minded people. We are excited for the opportunity to make more connections.