



Volume 12 Issue 51

December 17, 2017

## MESSAGE OF RESURRECTION

*"Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," (1 Cor. 15:1-4).* The Apostle Paul not only affirms that the resurrection of Jesus is the very basis our salvation is founded upon, but even goes so far as to reaffirm the absolute certainty that it actually occurred. *"...He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred*

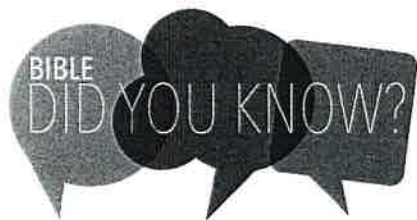
*brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also," (1 Cor. 15:5-8).* Paul provides several credible sources as witnesses corroborating the claim that not only was the tomb of Jesus found empty three days after His bloodied corpse had been placed inside of it, but that Jesus Himself was seen alive and well after being put to death by crucifixion. It is essential that a confident faith be built upon this astounding assertion as it is the most convincing evidence that the penalty for sin is undone through Christ. *"...and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins," (1 Cor. 15:17).* While the dark cold hand of death continues to

wreak havoc through this life, we are reminded each time its pain is felt of the sobering reality that since the days of Adam, death has been the penalty for sin. It is the resurrection of Christ which gives hope that if the Son of God was able to undo the penalty and overcome His own death, then all who are in Christ may have confidence that their punishment for sin has been reversed. *"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive,"* (1 Cor. 15:20-22). In other words, since by one man, Adam, came the curse, by one Man, Jesus, came the cure. Throughout the writings of the old testament we find countless hints and foreshadowing giving us clues how God would eventually resolve the problem of sin through Christ. In the book of Esther we have a hint of how a great salvation of God's people will be achieved through reversing a death sentence. In chapter 3, Haman successfully convinces King Ahasuerus to make a decree sealing the annihilation of the entire Jewish race. *"If it is pleasing to the*

*king, let it be decreed that they be destroyed...' The king said to Haman, 'The silver is yours, and the people also, to do with them as you please,'"* (Esther 3:9, 11). Due to the faithfulness and loyalty of Mordecai and Esther to the king, they were able to save their people from certain death by convincing King Ahasuerus to reverse the order. *"The king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king. Then she said, 'If it pleases the king and if I have found favor before him and the matter seems proper to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king's provinces,'"* (Esther 8:4-5). Interestingly, what preceded the actual reversal of the death sentence was the ironic death of Haman hanging on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. The very instrument he had intended to use to defeat Mordecai ended up being the very instrument of his own death. How fitting, since many years later Jesus would reverse the death sentence against us by defeating the power of Satan over death with the very instrument Satan used

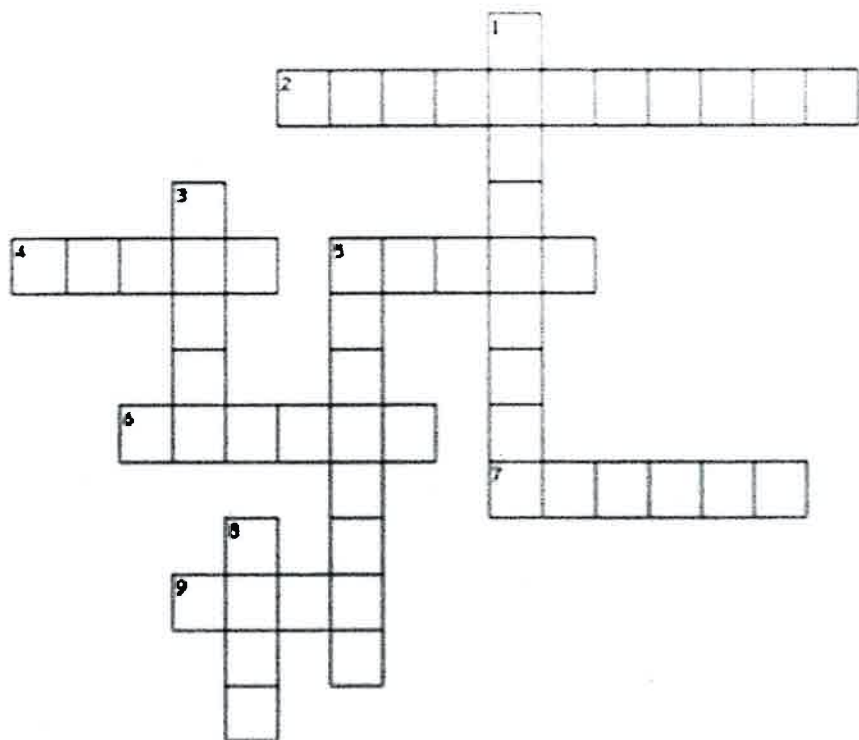
to attempt to defeat Jesus...the cross. *"Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives,"* (Heb. 2:14-15). Just as Mordecai and Esther were able to reverse the edict against their people condemning them to death, Jesus was able to reverse the effects of the Law of Moses condemning sinners to death through the cross. *"When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross,"* (Col. 2:13-14). The powerful force of evidence for all who are in Christ Jesus that the death sentence for our sin has been revoked lies in the empty tomb of Jesus. As Jesus was able to reverse the sentence of death through the resurrection, we have faith that our sin has been forgiven, and no longer have the

fear of death over us. *"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ,"* (1 Cor. 15:56-57). — Daniel Ruegg



***The faithful brethren at Colossae had love for all saints. "We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing..."***  
**Col. 1:3-6**

# The ULTIMATE CRSSWORD



## ACROSS

- The word of the cross is this to the perishing (1 Cor. 1:18)
- Her people informed Paul of quarrels in Corinth (1 Cor. 1:11)
- This is what Paul did in response to being reviled (1 Cor. 4:12)
- God caused this to the work of Paul and Apollos (1 Cor. 3:6)
- By this we may know the thoughts of God (1 Cor. 2:11)
- Regardless of material, each man's work will be tested by this (1 Cor. 3:13)

## DOWN

- Paul told the Corinthians to be of the same mind instead of this (1 Cor. 1:10)
- The kingdom of God does not consist in words but in this (1 Cor. 4:20)
- Paul didn't want anyone to say they had done this in his name (1 Cor. 1:15)
- Instead of solid food, Paul gave the Corinthians this (1 Cor. 3:2)