

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Easter, New Creation"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry L. Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

The Easter Story is God taking a life which was being spent on self, the pleasures of this world, blinded by the devil, and turning it around to achieve all of His good purposes. The Word of God has some good news. The "New Creation" is living as a new man in Christ which enables you to live a "Life with Real Meaning." The greatest tragedy in life is not death, it is to go through your entire life without knowing and living out your purpose for which God created you.

You will find the real meaning of your life as you let the same Holy Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwell within your heart. Allowing Christ to be both Savior and Lord of your life literally brings your soul, which was once dead in sin, back to life. "...If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you." (Romans 8:11) Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is also for

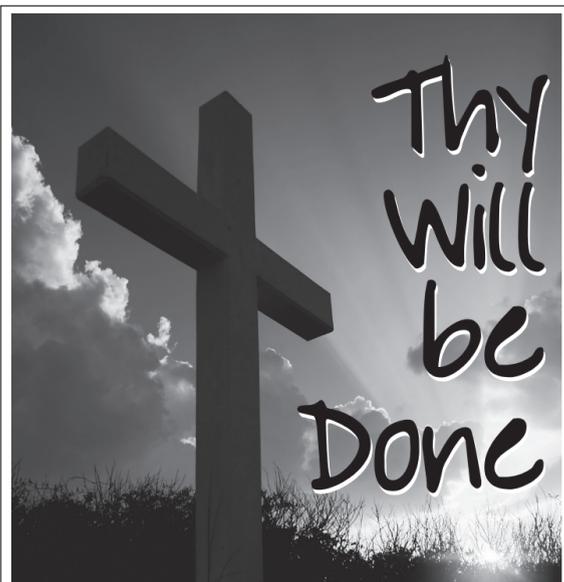
us today, "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." (Eph.

3:16-17) One of the secrets to finding meaning in this life that satisfies the soul is to understand what God means in regard to having Christ dwell in your hearts.

To "dwell" (*katoikeo*) means to give Christ full permission to take up full residence by His Spirit in your spiritual heart. It means to give Christ full permission to take up full residence by His Spirit to set your life in order.

The idea is letting Christ come into your heart and life that He may be a ruling master, so that He may take every part of your body and life and use it for His Father's purposes. Your first and most important meaning of being created is that you become an inhabitation of the Lord, reflecting the likeness of Christ through all you do. You are created for His glory not your own. What God is saying is, "Let Me tell you what your purpose for living is and then you can start to enjoy your life." This is why the Holy Spirit moved the apostle to write, "And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Cor. 5:15)

[Does Your Life Reflect a New Creation?](#)



"Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, 'My father, if it be possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as You will'." (Matthew 26:39)

Even Jesus, God's only Son, was subject to human emotion while He lived and preached on earth. Yet, He had total faith in His Father; Jesus accepted the will of God. Had Jesus not died, had He not paid for our sins on the Cross, humanity could not have realized the concept of God's unconditional mercy and forgiveness.

This Easter, as you worship, won't you meditate on God's gift of forgiveness and pray for acceptance of God's will? In all circumstances, have faith and know you are loved. Happy Easter!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Luke 19.28-48	Luke 20.1-18	Luke 20.19-47	Luke 22.1-38	Luke 22.39-71	Luke 23.1-49	Luke 23.50-56

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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