



Daily Reflections

September 16, 2016

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15: 15-20

Brothers and sisters:

If Christ is preached as raised from the dead,
how can some among you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

If there is no resurrection of the dead,
then neither has Christ been raised.

And if Christ has not been raised, then empty too is our preaching;
empty, too, your faith.

Then we are also false witnesses to God,
because we testified against God that he raised Christ,
whom he did not raise if in fact the dead are not raised.

For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain;
you are still in your sins.

Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,

we are the most pitiable people of all.
But now Christ has been raised from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Our Scripture Reflection

Paul describes Jesus' death and resurrection as "first fruits." In other words, what happened to Jesus FIRST is the destiny of all who believe in Him. That's how powerful His resurrection was for us. What a Gift!

Food for your Journey

It is said in motorcycle circles that one of the keys to survival is "looking through the curves." This means keeping your head up, and looking not only at the path in front of you, but also gazing a good distance down the road, so that you can see what's coming at you and be alert for potential hazards.

The very same is true in Christian circles. When we believe that Christ has, in fact, been raised from the dead, we are able to look through the curves and see that God is leading us to victory.

Through the curve of divorce, we discover hidden truths about ourselves. Through the curve of job loss, we find resourcefulness and skill-sets that we never knew we possessed. Through the curve of failure in school, we open our eyes to new possibilities for our futures. Through the curve of illness, we realize that a healing of the spirit can occur even as the body struggles for a cure. Through the curve of a painful death, we discover that we are upheld by the love of family and friends and a powerful Holy Spirit. Through the curve of a struggle with sin, we feel the mercy of our Lord Jesus, who died and rose to save us from sin and death.

In the spring and the fall, graveyards offer sanctuary to migrating birds, providing safe resting places on long cross-country journeys. And in the summer, cemetery trees hold nests. According to *The Washington Post* (May 26, 2003), a 1997 study of breeding birds in the Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland revealed nests of 76 different species of birds, spread across its 285 acres. That is many more nesting species than were found in areas around the cemetery.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Because of Your death and resurrection, I have the wonderful promise that when I close my eyes for the last time in this life, the next thing I will see is Your own wonderful light. Thank You for this precious gift, Lord. Amen.

The Divine Intervention's mission is carried out solely through the generous contributions of people like you. Please prayerfully consider donating to our ministry by visiting www.thedivineintervention.org or via our mailing address, P.O. Box 433, Huntington, W.V. 25709. Your donation is tax deductible.