

# THE HOUR OF THE CROSS

BY  
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## PT. 1 – The Hour is Come

I know as Christians all over the world during Lenten season we celebrate “Palm Sunday”, but I want us to consider something Jesus said: not focusing on the palms, but as always on HIM. We know from this Bible “story” that Jesus entered into Jerusalem and they hailed Him as the King of Israel. **John 12:12:** *“On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13: Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.”* But why was He there? What was “the feast”? They were there to celebrate Passover as the Jews had done for thousands of years. This feast celebrated the deliverance of the Jews from the land of Egypt, and they were to always remember what God had done for them by celebrating this feast every year. They were there going through their religious traditions (the Jews’ Passover - not the Lord’s), but they had no idea what would take place in the days ahead!

Now the people accepted Jesus because of the miracles He did and honored the man they could see, and desired that He would take them out of their hard times. They wanted Him to be “their King”, but their praise was in the flesh and for the flesh, and this was all about to change. Jesus was not impressed by their parade and demonstration of accepting Him – He knew their hearts. They didn’t really know who He was by the

miracles that He did: but the day was coming that they would know who He really was. Do you remember when the people flocked after Him when He fed the 5,000? **John 6:26:** *“Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. 27: Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”* He told them do not seek the natural bread but the meat, the substance that endures unto Everlasting Life, which The Son of Man shall give them.

There is a great transition that is going to take place, and then they will know The Truth of who The Son of Man is. EVERYTHING NOW IS GOING TO CHANGE BECAUSE THIS IS THE HOUR OF **TRUTH: THE TRUTH IS COME!** This is **“The Hour”** that all other **“hours”** of the Old Covenant were speaking of, and leading up to! Jesus had spoken of this **“hour”** to the Samaritan woman at the well. **John 4:23:** *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24: God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. 25: The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26: Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.”* The **“HOUR IS COME** because HE has come, and with HIM comes Truth for **HE HIMSELF** is the manifested Reality, The Truth, the substance of all that God had planned: and all things of God would be made known IN HIM – by THE CROSS. All things come to Truth in THE HOUR OF THE CROSS! And we need to understand that this Hour, this Time is always spoken of as **“THE”**: not **“a”**. This is exclusively a definite and distinct **“Hour”**, and there is no other Hour beyond This Hour to God, or more significant to

God than **THE HOUR OF THE CROSS**. He also spoke of this Hour that IS COME in **John 5:24**: *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25: Verily, verily, I say unto you, **The hour is coming, and now is**, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26: For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27: And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”*

We must understand that when Jesus walked in the earth before The Cross: although He told them who He was, they did not know (experientially and in Truth) who The Son of Man is. This Son of Man is Jesus in the flesh body of humanity, but Jesus coming to do the Will of The Father and to do what no other man could do. And the Jews started talking about Moses and the manna from heaven under the Old Covenant – which is all they knew at that time. But He tells them about the **TRUE** Bread from Heaven. The “manna of Moses” kept them in the wilderness, but that was NOT God’s full provision for His people. **John 6:32**: *“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33: For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.”* This Bread is a Person – The very Son of God Himself coming to earth as Man – The Son of Man! He came down from Heaven: but He is not going to give them natural food so that “they” can live. The True Bread that He gives is **HIMSELF**, and it is speaking of taking His Body of flesh to The Cross in order that they might come to have Eternal Life. **John 6:51**: *“I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life*

*of the world.” And now in order to come to Life you must eat this Bread: The Bread that He is. **John 6:53:** “Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.”* There is no other way of coming to Eternal Life except you participate in what “this Hour” would bring – THE CROSS.

And His dialogues with them are all leading up to what He knows is going to happen in Jerusalem. This is not just going to be another Passover like they have been practicing for thousands of years. The **TRUE** Passover Lamb – not just thousands of types and shadows - is going to be slain during this time, and the great change will take place because of the Son of Man. He has finally come to This Hour, to The Time predetermined of God for which He came to the earth. He spoke of this to Pilate when He stood before him to be judged. Pilate was trying to figure out a way to let Him go, but Jesus knew The Hour, and that the Time had come. This is **The Hour of The Cross**. He was “The Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world.” **John 18:37:** “Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” Now was the time when Truth was going to be seen, and all of the types and shadows would come to their fulfillment: it would all be by The Work of The Son of Man. But this was not going to be by them making Him a natural King and trying to set up an earthly Kingdom. This is what the people wanted, but He knew how God would accomplish His Plan on this earth. And it would only be accomplished by The Cross. “The end” and “the cause” for which He came to this earth was THE CROSS: **THE HOUR OF THE CROSS.**

**Luke 12:49:** *"I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? 50: But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! 51: Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:"* Everything Jesus did was waiting for The Hour of this "Baptism". But this is not a Jewish water baptism for repentance like John's was: this is speaking of His Death on The Cross. Out from His Death - Life will go forth; but this will bring not peace but division because all things will be judged by His Death. Remember Jesus came telling them who He was and what would happen to Him, but they would not receive Him in this way. **Mark 10:32:** *"And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, 33: Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: 34: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again."* They could not reconcile the view of The Promised Messiah as the Reigning King but also the Suffering Servant that the Prophets had spoken of. And they did not know "The Time". **Luke 12:56:** *"Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?"* This "Time" would be fulfilled in Him and by Him - by The Cross. But they had to come to HIM because THE CROSS was the power by which God would fulfill all of His promises.

And Jesus lamented over Jerusalem – God's People because they would not embrace Him as the Messiah that God promised to send: they would not accept HIM and THIS HOUR. **Luke 13:34:** *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and*

*stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! 35: Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.”* And because they rejected Him as Messiah, their House, their religious Temple would be left to them desolate. They must see HIM who comes in the Name of the Lord: because there would be NO OTHER to come!

So this is “The Time”, “The Hour” that has come on that “Palm Sunday” as He comes to Jerusalem – knowing He would die The Death of The Cross. The Greeks there who have come to Jerusalem say they want to see this man Jesus, this great Prophet and miracle worker. **John 12:21:** *“The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.”* They wanted to see the flesh man Jesus, but He answers them from the Reality of Heavenly Truth: in the Truth of **THE HOUR OF THE CROSS.** **John 12:23:** *“And Jesus answered them, saying, **The hour is come**, that the Son of man should be glorified.”* This is the divinely appointed Time in which The Son of Man – this Jesus in the flesh will come to be seen in The Truth of God’s Love and Eternal Plan. Now The Son of Man will be declared and manifestly shown to be who and what He is, and why He came. How? By setting up an earthly Kingdom and working miracles? No! **John 12:24:** *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”* He is that corn of wheat, and The Son of Man will only be truly known by His Death: not the death by the Romans, but The Death of The Cross that God ordained for the Son of Man.

Then Jesus speaks to them of the Judgment of the world. **John**

**12:31:** *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. 33: This he said, signifying what death he should die.”* When He would be lifted up on The Cross He would draw all men unto Himself, unto His Death; and God’s Righteous Judgment would be executed upon all men. And in HIM all men died. But all who would believe on HIM and HIS Death would then come to Life – Eternal Life with The Father. This is The Truth of The Son of Man and only by The Cross would He be made known. **John 8:28:** *“Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”* But even though He spoke Truth to them, they could not understand this. **John 12:34:** *“The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son of man?”*

They could not truly know Him by the flesh: only by The Cross would they come to know who He truly is. This is The Hour that is come, and in This Hour everything changes! One whole world is destroyed and separated from God, and another totally New One is brought in. It is all by The Death of This Man on The Cross. And by His Death we know He is The Son of God. **Matthew 27:51:** *“And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52: And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53: And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. 54: Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.”* He was made known to man as The Son of Man – as The Son of God by The Cross. May God help us to see that

The Hour that brings the fulfillment of all things that God was speaking of has come, and it is **THE HOUR OF THE CROSS**.

## **Pt. 2 - A New Day**

In our last lesson we were talking about “The Hour is Come”: The Time that God had determined from the foundation of the world: The Time that would give definition and meaning to all other times. And this is The Hour, The Day in which we are now living.

**Ephesians 1:10:** *“That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:”* This is speaking of an administration of the fulness of times (the end of the times of the first creation world and first creation man) that God had planned when He would sum up and comprehend all things in and by His Son, Christ Jesus. And all of the parts of the Old Covenant – The Law, the Feasts, the Priests, the Prophecies and Promises would be fully understood and made manifest in Truth - in Christ. Under the Old Covenant things were still hidden: in darkness, with no full Light and understanding. But **1 John 2:8** says *“...the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.”* This “day” was in the future for the Old Covenant people, but this “day” is NOW for us. Why? Because this is not a calendar day, but this Day is come by **Christ and The Cross:** That Finished Work. It is an Eternal Day, and all things that God planned are now fulfilled in and by that Work: His Death, Burial and Resurrection. And we are living in The Time, The Hour that all of God’s promises are fulfilled – in Christ by His Cross.



This “Day” begins as the Jewish day did, with darkness. (**Genesis 1:5**: *“the evening and the morning were the first day”*.) This Finished Work begins with **His Death**, but this is The Time and means appointed of God to accomplish God’s Will: this is all according to God’s Plan. **Acts 17:31**: *“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”* “The Day” that God appointed of Judgment would be by **that Man** that He ordained. The Judgment that God required would be accomplished by That Man, speaking of Jesus Christ, The Son of Man. We know Jesus said speaking of His Death on The Cross in **John 12:31**: *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”* And the word “judgment” means coming to a decision, and separating the living from the dead. And this is what The Cross has done. The Cross and That Man on The Cross have separated all that is dead to God from all that is alive unto God. And this is an Eternal and Righteous Judgment. We are not judged by our works but by our relationship to “That Man” – Jesus Christ: have we embraced the Judgment that He brought at The Cross?

Now this appears to be a “dark day”: a time of death and devastation, but that is only one aspect of this Finished Work. Jesus knew this and always told His disciples about This Day in its fulness. **Matthew 16:21**: *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.”* This was God’s Plan, and even though His disciples could not understand this at that time, they could NOT stop it! **Matthew 16:22**: *“Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from*

*thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23: But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men."* He would be put to death, but on the third day He would be raised! And His Resurrection is the assurance: not just the "hope" of something better, but the witness and **surety** that this Work has been accomplished. **Acts 17:31:** "*...whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*" The Resurrection, The Light, The Life is our assurance! **Acts 2:22:** "*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.*" Peter was speaking of This Jesus: the Jesus that they knew, who came in the flesh body to go into the realm of death for all of mankind who were worthy of death. He brought that creation to a Righteous Death, and buried all of it unto God. But death could not hold **HIM**, and **HE** came out of that whole realm of death, in a Body of Resurrection Life that is no longer subject to death and never will be! Now for evermore His Body lives in Newness of Life!

This is the "joy that was set before Him". **Hebrews 12:2:** "*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*" Because of this assurance – of the Resurrection - from His Father He endured The Cross. **Psalms 16:10:** "*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11: Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy*

*presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”* The Cross – His death and burial was the means by which God would accomplish His Plan. He despised the shame: becoming sin, the curse; becoming us and enduring that Judgment: but He is now set down at the right hand of The Throne of God. And He is set there in total victory having fully accomplished all that God had determined to have from the beginning. This is the fulfillment of **Psalms 30:5**: *“For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”*

And it is the “morning” aspect of this Day that we celebrate on Easter Sunday: **Resurrection Day**. And this morning brings in a New Day, with New Life, a New Covenant, and a New Understanding – New Light. This is an Eternal Day that has no end and no darkness because Christ in His Resurrection Power is the substance and fulness of This Day. At the time of the historical Resurrection of Christ they could not believe this and all that it meant, but we have the distinct honor today of living in the fulness and Reality of this Resurrection. But we have to comprehend it as a New Day – NOW come.

**Mark 16:1**: *“And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.”* We read here of a New Day, and a New Light. The ladies went to anoint the dead body of Jesus, but **God** had already anointed Him and raised Him up out from the dead in a glorified body that they at that time did not recognize. **Mark 16:6**: *“And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.”* They were looking for the man of flesh who was crucified: but they were told He is risen - He is not here. Do not seek the

living among the dead! In John 20 we read that the disciples saw the grave clothes, but no dead body. **John 20:9:** *"For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead."* They did not understand and comprehend the Scripture that He must rise again, anew from the dead – not in the form of the old, the first, but in a NEW Body. And this comprehension would only come in His Appearing – in His Presencing.

This New Day requires a New comprehension, a New knowing of Him. **John 20:13:** *"And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. 14: And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 15: Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16: Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17: Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, **I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**"* Mary was looking for the "old" Jesus, the man of flesh that she knew. And when He appears in Resurrection to her she doesn't know Him. She wants to hold onto Him in that old flesh understanding, as the man of flesh. **Matthew 28:9** says when Jesus met the disciples they came and held Him by the feet. But Jesus did not raise out from the dead in that old flesh body that they knew. And He must go back to The Father and bring them to a glorious New Relationship. *"I must ascend to my father and your father: and to my God, and your God."* He in and as The Resurrection is their assurance of this glorious New Relationship: that God is OUR Father, and OUR God.

This is The New Day that was spoken of and is now fully come! And this is why Christians began worshiping God on the first day of the week, commemorating This New Day, in Newness of Life: not in the oldness of the types and shadows, of the Old Covenant system. And now they were not knowing Him and looking for Him in the body of flesh. He is no longer there! He is risen and lives now Eternally in the Glorious Glorified Body of His Resurrection, in a New Day. This is the Eternal Day that has now come in Christ. We must find Him there as The New, and find ourselves there – New in Him as The New Creation! And now because we are children of This Day, This Light, we are to WALK (live daily) as children of This Day, This Light - in Newness of Life because of what Christ has done **at The Cross**.

### **Pt. 3 – Living in The Resurrection**

We have been considering the glorious “Day of the Lord”, “The Hour of The Cross” in which all things of God’s Eternal Plan are fulfilled and realized. And this is the three-fold Day of The Cross: The Finished Work of His death, burial and resurrection. And I want us to consider the greatness of this Work, this Day because when this “Hour came” everything changed! All of the Old Covenant world, man, religion, the Law – all of that was put aside, and by this Work and in a New Day everything was made New – with Newness of Life. The Creation that has come forth by this Work, in this Day is Eternal, is Spirit: and even though it is heavenly, we can experience it now in the earth. So may we consider the greatness of The Hour of The Cross, and not neglect the “so great Salvation” we now have in Christ Jesus.

We have said that this is a three-fold Day, a three-fold Work, and I want to emphasize that because in our carnal mind we can agree that the death and burial of Jesus took place, and we can even see ourselves in that. But we have trouble with “the Resurrection”, and most Christians are waiting for this to take place rather than living in the Reality of The Resurrection that has now come. In God’s Mind and in The Truth of The Cross, The Resurrection is not a separate Work waiting to happen “one day”; but The Resurrection completes the Work, and brings us from death to Life. The Old Testament types and prophecies of The Cross, of these Three Days were always seen together. For example, **Hosea 6:1**: *“Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2: After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.”* This “Third Day” was guaranteed, and this Day not only brings Life, but Life in God’s sight, in His presence, in union with Him. Jesus Himself spoke of this “Third Day” with confidence in His Father. **Matthew 16:21**: *“From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.”*

This was the joy that was set before Jesus (Hebrews 12:2) by which He endured The Cross and He spoke of this as “the Last Day” in which He would raise up people into Life. **John 6:39**: *“And this is the Father’s will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.”* **John 6:54**: *“Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”* This is not a day “to come”, and a day that will end, but this is The Eternal Day of The Completed Work of The Cross: The Day of Resurrection and of Life. Jesus had that

assurance of The Father, and God passed that assurance to us when God raised Jesus from the dead. (Acts 17:31) Jesus' Resurrection accomplished all that God desired, and that raising up is our assurance today.

**I Peter 1:3:** *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4: To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."* It is all by God's Mercy that He has given us a LIVING expectation: with confidence of its Truth by the Resurrection of Christ out from the dead. And we are kept by God's Power through faith (knowledge of that Resurrection) unto full Salvation. And as our knowledge of The Truth of Resurrection not as an act, but in The Person of Christ who Himself is The Resurrection (**John 11:25:** *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"*) increases, our assurance grows, and we can truly Live in His sight and in The Power of His Resurrection with His Life. And remember it is HIS Resurrection that must be the focal point, and not ours as we focus on in religious circles today. It was HIS Resurrection that confirmed the Truth of who He was, and why the religious leaders of His day tried to discredit His Resurrection. **Matthew 28:12:** *"And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, 13: Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. 14: And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. 15: So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day."* The religious leaders of the day said Jesus' disciples stole His body out of the tomb

because they could not deal with what His Resurrection would mean. It meant an end to their religion!

So “The Resurrection” early on was a problem to many, but Paul gives it its rightful significance as part of that Finished Work, and we must also. **I Corinthians 15:12:** *“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13: But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. 15: Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16: For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18: Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.”* Please think on this! This is how important His Resurrection is! **I Corinthians 15:20:** *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21: For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22: For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23: But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.”* **But now is Christ** – this is The Day that has come, The Day we are living in. He is now risen! In Adam all die: in Christ shall all be made alive. But there is always an order: Christ the first as the firstfruits, afterward they that are Christ's at His coming: His presencing – making Himself known in Resurrection Power and Life – in us. And then we become The Witness of The Resurrection in the earth, because it is Christ living in us. **Galatians 2:20** is Paul's knowledge of living in and by the power of HIS Resurrection: not I, but Christ living in me. *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for*



me.”

We have to come to understand Resurrection not as something that Jesus does, but in the Person of Christ: *“I am THE (the only one) Resurrection and THE Life.”* (John 11:25). And just as we first have to know Him in death (as my death and my end), now we have to know Him in The Resurrection and as The Resurrection (the ONLY Resurrection there is), because if He was not raised up out from the dead and brought out a people as One with Him, having His Resurrection Life - we would still be dead! He only was and is the hope and assurance of Life.

We mentioned that there is an order: and it is an order of these “three days”, and in order to be living in The Resurrection, we must follow God’s order. Paul’s desire was to truly experience The Truth of Christ for whom he had counted everything else as loss. But in order to know Him in The Power of His Resurrection here on the earth, Paul had to experience His sufferings and be made conformable to HIS death. **Philippians 3:10:** *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11: If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”* And this is where we stumble. Until we truly embrace and experience fully HIS Death – the doing away of the old man and all of the first realm of flesh, we will not experience the Reality and Fulness of The Resurrection. Because in the Truth of The Resurrection only ONE is raised, and only ONE lives. And that is not me or you – but **Christ!**

The order has been set forth in these three days and fulfilled by Christ and The Cross, and we now must follow that same order. **Romans 6:5:** *“For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection... 8: Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that*

*we shall also live with him: 9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.*" He died to sin once, and now He lives unto God: this is Resurrection Life. And now because we are One with Him... **Romans 6:11:** "*Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" This is not because of what you and I do, but through Jesus Christ our Lord and the Finished Work of The Cross. And this is Living in The Resurrection: Living in The Hour of The Cross.

I pray the Lord will help us to see that the Church has been raised as One with Him in the Reality of His Resurrection. That has happened, and the effects of this great Hour and Work will never cease or be destroyed. That is our assurance. But the question for us is: are we living in that Reality daily? Are we living in The Hour That Is Come? This can only be done by coming to the knowledge of this Reality: knowing it all in Him and as Him. He is The Death of the old man and world, but He is also The Resurrection and Life by which we now Live as One with God. Thank God for **THE HOUR OF THE CROSS!**