

# Because of Him

- Revelation 1
- Judas is dead
- Pilate wishes he was
- The Cross has been taken down
- The empty tomb is... still empty
- *Now what?*
- What did all of this accomplish?
- A few nights ago you had your last meal with Jesus
- That very same night he was dragged away by soldiers
- You saw him die upon a cross next to some common criminals
- You may not fully understand all of the ramifications yet, but you know for sure that your life has changed
- For over 2,000 years Believers have been convinced deep in their hearts that their lives have changed
- And it is all because of Him...
- Henry Ward Beecher said, *"The strength and the happiness of a man consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going in that way too."*
- Your life is dramatically different because of your relationship with God
- Your life is dramatically different because of what Jesus has called you to
- Your life is dramatically different because of what Jesus did for you

- Let me tell you what you have because of him...
- Because of Him...

### 1) You are **Friends** With God

- Revelation 1:5-7

- 5) Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
- 6) and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 7) Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

- Verse 5 says to "*Him who loves us*"

- We don't think of ourselves as enemies of God, but that's what we were

- Romans 5:8-10

- 8) God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- 9) Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.
- 10) For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

- By being baptized into Christ, we are saved from the wrath of God that is going to come upon all of the Earth
- We have had our sins reconciled and we are no longer estranged from our creator
- We are at peace with God
- Peace is an offspring of God's love...

- Colossians 1:21-23

- 21) And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,
- 22) he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,
- 23) if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- Your familiar with this verse...

- Philippians 4:7

- 7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- Because of Him we are friends with God

- And secondly because of Him...

2) You have been **freed** from our sins

- Revelation 1:5-7

- 5) Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
- 6) and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- 7) Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

- Being freed from your sins is forgiveness

- God doesn't erase all the consequences of our actions, but he does promise something far better: to forgive us

- God provides us redemption

- He allows us to hit the RESET Button in our lives and start afresh
- Isaiah 55:6-7
  - 6) “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
  - 7) let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- Because of Him we are friends with God
- Because of Him we have been freed from our sins
- And lastly, Because of Him we **find** purpose
- Revelation 1:5-7
  - 5) Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
  - 6) and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
  - 7) Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
- Verse 6 says he has made us into a kingdom full of priests
- Since Jesus died there should be no difference between clergy and laity
- As Christadelphians, we tend to think that we don't have any Priests
- But, in reality, we are all priests
- Just because I am standing up here today, that doesn't mean that I am the minister and you all are the members
- Every Member is a Minister
- Every Member is a Priest

- Look what Peter says,

- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9

9) But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

- Many people spend a large part of their life wandering around aimlessly because they don't have a purpose in their life

- Because of Him we all have a Purpose

- Because of Him we are all Priests

- We have all been saved

- We have not saved been BY works, but saved TO work!

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 2:20-21

20) Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.

21) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

- God is in the business of restoration

- He takes people that seem worthless, people broken by the weight of sin, and transforms them into works of beauty and usefulness

- He needs help with that job, and he has personally selected a whole kingdom full of Priests to help Him

- We are that Kingdom of Priests

- That is our job, our purpose

- Because of Him we find purpose in our lives

- So, as we look back at that scene 2,000 years ago
- The empty tomb is still empty
- All that remains of that Last Supper are literally a few crumbs of bread and a few drops of wine
- What did the death of Jesus accomplish?
- You have been changed dramatically
- You are now considered a Friend of God
- You have been freed from your Sins
- You have found a Purpose for your life
- Because of Him