

Nancy and I recently came upon an old church bulletin from the Church of Christ in Coos Bay, Oregon.

It is written by a man named Ed Werner, the minister, at that time.

Title: REFLECTIONS

The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the central focal point of the entire Bible! The first prophecy in the Bible predicted the coming of Jesus to bruise Satan's head, while in the process He would be bruised in his "heel". All of Old Testament history is recorded to document the process God used to prepare a people and a Law governing that people in preparation for the coming of Jesus into this world. The Law given through angels to Moses and through him to the nation of Israel, had a 3 fold purpose:

1. To establish a code of moral ethics and conduct for God's people,
2. to establish multiple types depicting many aspects of the church and the Christian era, and
3. to demonstrate man's utter incapability of earning his own salvation by living a perfect life in accord with God's law.

And the prophets predicted nearly every major event in the life of Christ, pointing to Him as the coming Messiah, who would be anointed as the ultimate and final Prophet, Priest, and King over God's people.

Over 300 prophecies were fulfilled in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The substitutionary death of Jesus on the cross for our sins and our consequent guilt before God was the climax of all human history.

Hebrews 9:11-15 tells us, "but when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things to come, He entered through the greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this creation; and not through the blood of goats and calves, but through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, in order that since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance."

The cruel death of Jesus has been "sanitized" in today's world to the point that even many Christians partake of weekly memorial, called the Lord's Supper, without a lot of thought about the horrible experience Jesus went through to save us from our sins! Although I have not seen it, those who have, tell me that Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of Christ" has quite accurately and graphically depicted the horrible things Jesus suffered physically for us as he

died on the cross of Calvary. Still, it was not the lashes from the whips or the nails which fastened Him to the cross that killed Jesus. It was your sins and mine that put Him to death!

But the glorious climax to it all is the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. Without the resurrection, His death would have just been another Roman crucifixion. It is the empty tomb that makes Jesus death so wonderful! He is alive!

He now reigns as King over His Kingdom, the church. And we are, or can be, saved forever because of his resurrection from the grave. This is the reason the Lord's church participates in the Lords Supper every first day of the week, even as the early Christians did in (Acts 20:6,7). Let us never become so accustomed to partaking of the emblems that we forget the awful price that was paid for our salvation. And may we each live for Him who died for us, so we can someday spend eternity with Him.

**HE IS RISEN!!**