

SPRING 2020

TIDINGS

CHRIST'S SANCTIFIED HOLY CHURCH



- PHOTO BY DILLON WILLIAMSON

Time to draw close...

As I'm writing this, the world is in the grips of a health crisis that impacts our lives in ways that we have not experienced before. Minute by minute, life is changing and becoming more surreal. Routine is broken, schools and businesses are closing, there are shortages of essential items of food and household products due to panic buying. Even our ability to gather for worship and fellowship is restricted. We're generally confined to our homes for what might be weeks. Fear, anxiety, and panic have become the emotions of the day. Who could predict just 30 days ago our routine would change dramatically? What a stark reminder that life is unpredictable.

Now is the time to focus on the promises and character of God. He has promised to never leave or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:8, Joshua 1:9, Hebrews 13:5-6). He is never changing (James 1:17) and always faithful (Lamentations 3:22-26). He is our sustainer and lifter of our heads (Psalms 3:3-5). When we seek Him and draw close to Him, He will deliver us from all our fears (Psalms 34:4).

May this time of uncertainty draw us closer to the One who can give us joy and peace, whatever circumstance we face (John 16:33). Now is time to draw close to the Lord and worship Him. Closeness and communion with God will relieve us from these fears. "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee." Psalms 56:3.

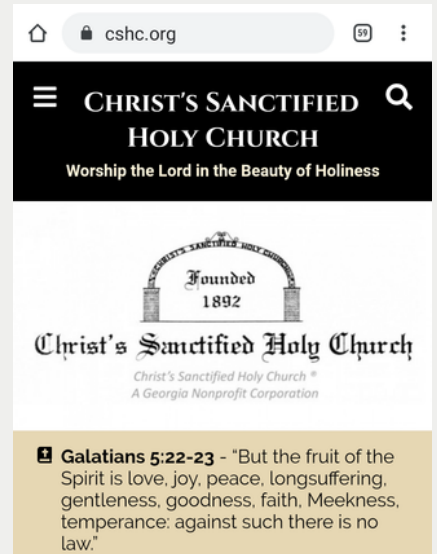
Oh God, help us to focus on You and Your many promises. Remind us that we live by faith and all our hope is in You alone. May we encourage and uplift one another in this unimaginable time. Give us wisdom in our daily lives to listen to the health officials and manage our daily lives appropriately. Help us to remember that You hold tomorrow. If we trust in You, You will be with us whatever may come.

continued on page 2...

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18-19

Visit www.cshc.org for up to date information on schedule of feasts meetings and other events.



*"Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me"*

PHIL WICKHAM /
BRIAN MARK JOHNSON

continued from p.1...

TIDINGS

"But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head. I cried unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me." Psalm 3:3-5

"Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places." Habakkuk 3:17-19

"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:11

*I dread not the terror by night,
No arrow can harm be by day
Above me His wings are spread wide
Beneath them in safely I stand*

- Bro Steve Gray



Sometimes we need a deep clean. I was cleaning this morning - more than the usual dust, vacuum, wipe counters, etc. I was on my knees and reaching into places I don't normally get to on a regular basis. Found some dirt and mess that needed to go. Feels good to have it gone. Sometimes we do what we should - I read my Bible everyday this week, I prayed and I thanked God for my blessings... the "usual," and I was sincere. But I need to be deep cleaning - on my knees asking God to renew me, remove anything He doesn't like and search me. It is definitely humbling to be on our knees and ask God to remove anything that needs to go but it's necessary if we really want to be more like Christ. Nothing is hidden from Him - but we need His help to see it sometimes...before it becomes sinful.

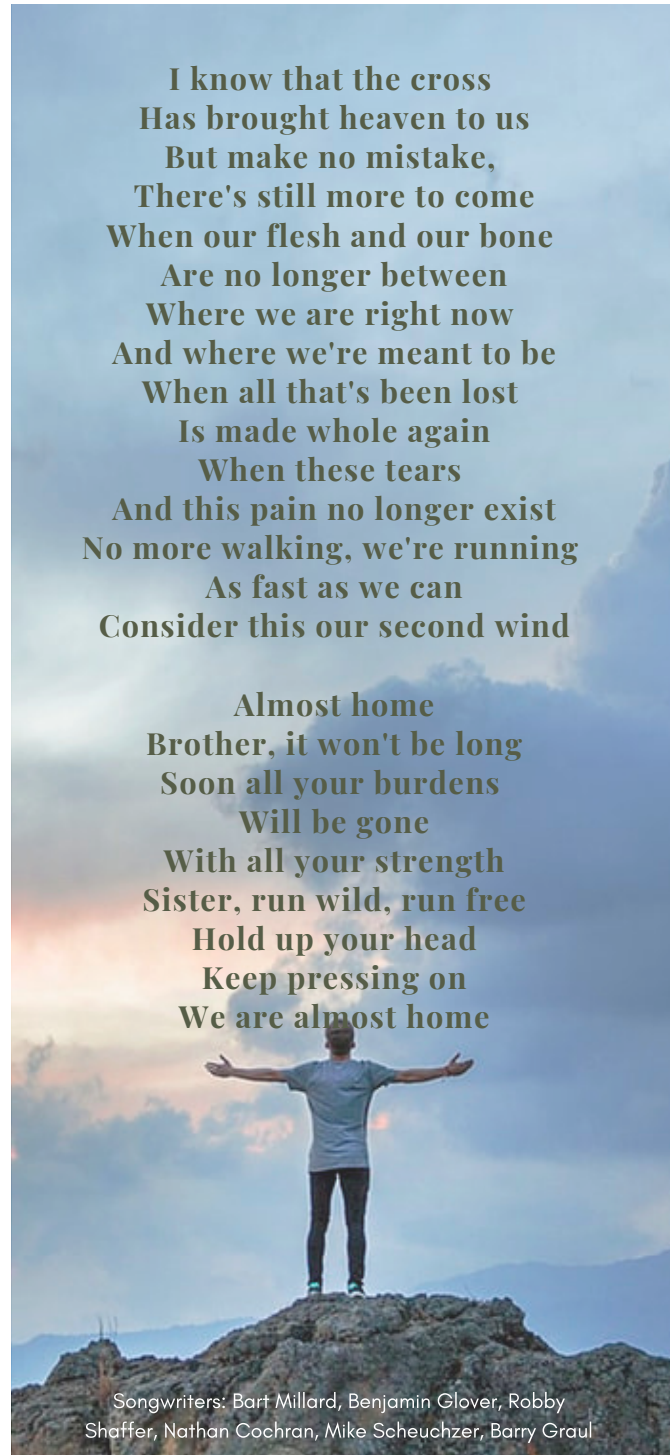
"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalms 139:23--24

- Sis Risha Cross

**I know that the cross
Has brought heaven to us
But make no mistake,
There's still more to come
When our flesh and our bone
Are no longer between
Where we are right now
And where we're meant to be
When all that's been lost
Is made whole again
When these tears
And this pain no longer exist
No more walking, we're running
As fast as we can
Consider this our second wind**

**Almost home
Brother, it won't be long
Soon all your burdens
Will be gone
With all your strength
Sister, run wild, run free
Hold up your head
Keep pressing on
We are almost home**



Songwriters: Bart Millard, Benjamin Glover, Robby Shaffer, Nathan Cochran, Mike Scheuchzer, Barry Graul

Fairy Tale or Fact?

- Article originally printed in Lee County Ledger on Wed., March 19, 2008

Is the Easter story fact or fiction? For that matter, what about the Bible itself? Let's see if we can condense the Bible's message into one paragraph:

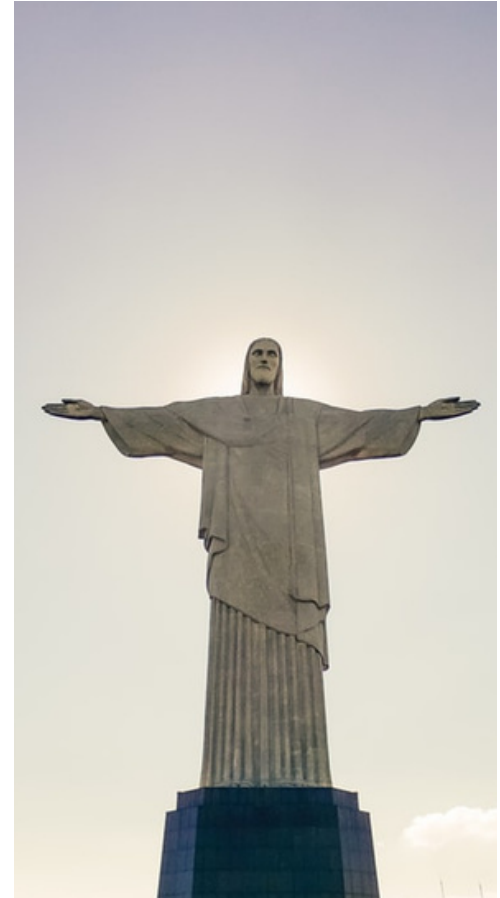
God created everything. Man sinned. God sent Jesus, born of a virgin, to restore man to fellowship again. Jesus did many mighty miracles. He was crucified and died. He was resurrected three days later and taught his disciples that the Holy Ghost - God in spirit form - would come to live in believer's hearts "not many days hence." Those who repent and seek the Holy Ghost will walk in fellowship with God and go to heaven when they die. Those who reject God will go to hell when they die.

Fairy tale or fact? Myth or reality? Truth or fiction? Every person has to make that choice for themselves. Sure, there are deeper theological things to talk about, but let's keep this simple. Here's what it boils down to for me. Either we're part of this amazing tapestry of God or we're just another link in the amoeba spawned evolutionary story that some believe. If the latter is true, that we are the highest form of life, the height of the evolutionary process, the cream of the crop, then the story of our lives is all that we have. There is no heaven or hell or afterlife or judgment, simply because there is no God. We're born, we live, and we die. End of story.

In this Easter season, though, I want to stand and say that we are the amazing, fantastic and blessed creation of God! We are as nothing before Him. We are powerless before the one and true God. Yes, the Bible seems like a book of fairy tales to some. Yes, parts of it are difficult to understand. Yes, it's true that some people who call themselves Christians are living hypocritical lives which casts doubt in the minds of those who are seeking for the answers in life. Truth is still truth, though, whether we understand it or not... or whether we believe it or not. You could say, "I can't feel gravity. I can't see gravity. Therefore gravity doesn't exist." One jump off of a building will prove that gravity does exist!

The amazing resurrection story of Easter that we celebrate is just as real as gravity. God proved through his son Jesus Christ that we can have victory over sin in our lives if we'll repent of our sins and seek after the gift of the Holy Spirit. We can then become "dead to sin but alive to God." That, my friends, is what proves the story of Easter to be true. To God be the glory!

- Bro Gary Collier



PARTING THOUGHT

Choose faith, not fear.

Remember David from the Old Testament scriptures, before he assumed the throne of Israel, when he and a band of ragtag misfits were living in exile in Philistine territory, and they returned from a battle to find their town ransacked, their homes looted, and all their women and children taken captive. The whole group began to fall apart, and their thoughts turned to mutiny against their leader David. The Bible records that in this desperate, stressful situation, "David encouraged himself in the Lord." He rallied his men, pursued his enemy, won the victory, and retrieved every wife and daughter and son that had been captured (1 Samuel 30).

David chose faith over fear.

We have faced difficult situations, and there are more still to come. A song written in 2010, in the wake of tsunami and earthquake and global financial crises, says, "In death by love, the fallen world was overcome, He wears the scars of our freedom. In His name, all our fears are swept away, He never fails. So take heart, let His love lead us through the night. Hold on to hope, and take courage again. All our failure, and all our fear, He has overcome."

Choose faith, not fear.

- Bro. David Copeland

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