WORDS IN RED

WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?

**16** But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. **17** And he said unto them, What manner of communications *are* these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? Luke 24:16-17 (KJV)

 This day should have been a glorious day because Christ had risen from the grave. He was no longer dead. Satan had lost the war. The grave had given up its prey. Death no longer had dominion over the body or spirit of Christ. Yes it should have been the most glorious day ever but for two of Jesus disciples on the Emmaus Road, it was maybe the worst day ever. The man they had hoped to be the Messiah had been crucified and now was reported missing from the grave. Unrecognized, Christ came upon them and began a conversation. His question to them, in short, was “why are you so sad?”

 It can be sad if we are blind to the fact that Christ is risen. Some say they will not believe his resurrection because resurrection is impossible. Consider this, his dead body was never seen again, yet he was seen alive by Mary Magdalene, two disciples on the road to Emmaus, **“5** And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: **6** After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. **7** After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. **8** And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.” 1 Cor 15:4-8 (KJV). If one must have proof, there seems to be much more proof for resurrection than against it.

It is also sad if we are blind to the faith that he is risen. Some, like Thomas, say “Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.” Christ was aware of Thomas words and thoughts. Eight days later Christ appeared to the disciples with Thomas present and invited him to touch his hands and thrust his hand into his side. Jesus told Thomas, “Be not faithless, but believing.” Thank God, Thomas lost his sadness and proclaimed “My Lord and My God!”

 There is a fullness in his resurrection that can bring great joy to our lives. Fullness comes when we embrace the present tense of Jesus Christ. Cleopas and his friend were sad because they held only to the past tense of Jesus. “He was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.” We will also find fullness when he walks with us and talks with us. There is fulfillment in hearing his word and allowing it to set our hearts afire. Fullness comes when our eyes are opened and we find him sitting at the head of our table.

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram