

Spreading the **WORD** Ministry



Easter

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him

stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

As we enter this sacred season, we reflect on the profound meaning of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the joyous celebration of Easter. This pivotal event in Christian history shapes not only our faith but also our understanding of sacrifice, redemption, and hope.

The crucifixion is a testament of our Lord's immense love for humanity, where He willingly bore the weight of our sins. As we read in the Gospels, Jesus was arrested, tried, and ultimately sentenced to death on a cross, a method of execution reserved for the most despised criminals. In this moment of unbearable suffering, He uttered the words, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). This act of forgiveness demonstrates the depth of His compassion.

Three days following the crucifixion, we celebrate The resurrection of Jesus, where He rose from the dead and won victory over sin and death. This miraculous event reassures us that death is not the end but a promise of eternal life for all who believe.

On Easter Sunday, churches around the world resonate with hymns of joy and gratitude as congregants gather to remember and rejoice in the resurrection of Christ. The empty tomb serves as a powerful reminder that although Jesus faced unimaginable suffering, He triumphed over it, offering us new beginnings and the hope of resurrection.

As we commemorate the crucifixion and celebrate the resurrection, let us embrace the message of love, forgiveness, and hope. In the spirit of Easter, may we cherish the lessons of the crucifixion and the joy of resurrection. Wishing you and your family a blessed and joyful Easter!

**"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing
by the **WORD** of God." Romans 10:17**

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TWO WOODS

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Once upon a time, a young pastor in a country church walked along an old trail that led deep into the woods. He was troubled. His flock seemed so stale, so dead, so complacent.

But he did not seem to have the answer to get them out of the doldrums. No matter how many fiery sermons he preached, with his threats of hell and promises of heaven, they just sat there—no expressions, no “Hallelujahs”, nothing.

They always seemed to appreciate the sermons, but in a superficial way. “Nice sermon” was the most common thing said as the congregation left the church each Sunday. From there, they would go to the local restaurants for Sunday dinner and then repeat the whole thing one week later, without an ounce of change that could be seen.

And so, our young pastor hiked. He needed to clear his head and think. “What’s wrong? I don’t get how these people can be so unmoved by the Gospel!”

He came across a deep forest. The tall oak trees were close together, with brush surrounding each tree. The trail got very narrow, and branches continually stuck him in the face as he struggled to get through the massive thicket of trees. Dying trees reached in vain against more vigorous, taller trees for sunlight, and the underbrush smothered the forest floor for room to root. He wondered if he would ever get through the bramble he found himself in.

But he did. Next, he came to a place where pine trees grew. These trees were spread farther apart, and you could see where fallen pine needles neatly replaced the thick undergrowth around the trees. The trail widened, and there was more than enough space to walk. Every pine seemed proud and strong.

By the grace of God, our pastor suddenly understood his congregation’s problem. “We are the oak thicket. We are too close together. We are not meant to be just in one place. We should be expanding and growing. We need to be out in the world spreading the Gospel, not just in our little church suffocating.”

Does this describe you? Do you keep your faith in the oak thicket and not spread it to grow stronger? Will you spread the Gospel by showing your faith and proclaiming the Good News?
