



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to 2 Corinthians 5: 14-15

Title: Ever-Flowing Life of Easter

Theme: Restoring Spiritual Life This Easter

Introduction: *When Jesus was crucified on the Cross, and was raised again on the third day, He got victory over sin and death and that purchased the abundant life in Christ which is available to all who will but surrender to His Lordship.*

2 Corinthians 5:14-15:

Proposition: *I would propose that Easter has a whole lot more for you than just a special Sunday for family meals. Easter is about coming alive.*

The heart that understands what Jesus accomplished on the first Easter births forth a "Life Filled with Meaning," and "Life Freed by Grace."

Transitional Sentence: *We live in an area that if we are willing to work hard we can enjoy pleasure, money, acceptance, recognition, position, possessions, and recreation.*

Interrogative Sentence: *What is the "New Life" that Jesus offers? The life that reflects all that Christ purchased for the children of God.*

Transitional Sentence: *The Word of God has some good news. There is an antidote. It is called the "New Creation." Living as a new man in Christ will enable you to live a "Life with Real Meaning." The greatest tragedy in life is not death, it is to go through your entire life without knowing and living out your purpose.*

The Easter Story is God taking a life which was being spent on self, the pleasures of this world and was blinded by the devil, and turning it around to achieve all of His good purposes.

The apostle Paul gives us this exhortation, "And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you." (Rom. 8:11)

Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is also for us today, "I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. (Eph. 3:16-17)

One of the secrets to finding meaning in this life that satisfies the soul is to understand what God' means in regards to having Christ dwell in your hearts. To "dwell" (*katoikeo*) means to give Christ full permission to take up full residence by His Spirit in your heart. (Zodhiates) It means to literally "house down."

The idea is of letting Christ come into your heart and life that He may be a ruling master, so that He may take every part of your body and life and use it for His Father's purposes.

What God is saying, "Let Me tell you what your purpose for living is and then you can start to enjoy your life." This is why the Holy Spirit moved the apostle to write, "And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." (2 Corinthians 5:15)

Pastor Rick Warren told a story:
(Matt. 25:35-40)

The most valuable gift that Christ can offer goes unnoticed by most people in this world which is eternal life and a close personal relationship with Him.

The price Jesus paid for you on the Cross and the victory He won for us on that first Easter means that we are no longer slaves to sin, rather we are adopted children and are heirs of the Son of God. (Galatians 4:7) Being adopted children of God we are given every spiritual blessing in Christ that we need. (Ephesians 1:3)

For those who will but ask of the Lord, He will show them His will for them. They will know their purpose as Christ knew His purpose and they will enjoy a meaningful life, a life that satisfies the soul. They will hear at the judgment seat of Christ "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)

Does your life have eternal meaning? Are you living self, chasing the world and the things in it or are you deceived by the devil? Does your life reflect a heart that is seeking God's will for you? Are you enjoying all the spiritual blessings that are to be found in Christ Jesus?

Transitional Sentence: *A life connected to the "Ever-Flowing Life of Easter" is a meaningful life and it is a life "Freed by Grace."*
Romans 11:6; Ephesians 2:8-10:

"Grace" (*charis*) means that we are justified freely by God's own hand, nothing done by us. The application is we have free forgiveness through Christ's sacrificial death on the Cross and thus we have reconciliation to a holy God. (Zodhiates)
Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." (John 8:34) Sin is that condition and activity of human beings that is offensive to God, their Creator.

It is impossible to achieve victory over sin merely by striving to do things. All salvation is by God's grace. It is unmerited divine help that even causes a sinner to have a desire to want to seek the Lord, to enquire about the Christ and then have the ability to live a life pleasing to Him.

If you know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, or if you have been given the opportunity to consider what you will do with Christ, then it is by God's grace alone. Without Him there would be no drawing to Christ or ability to respond to the gospel and live it out.

He is willing and wanting to give us all grace. The Holy Spirit moved the apostle Paul to write about this powerful truth, "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8) God's saving grace is available to all who desire to become part of His family.

Adopted a child from Thailand:

That is exactly what Christ wants to do for you! On the Cross of Calvary he paid the only payment that could purchase your freedom from the bondage of sin. The apostle Paul wrote about this redemptive work of Christ upon the Cross and victory that is available to the children of God through the resurrection of Christ. He writes, "So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir." (Gal. 4:7) Jesus said, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (Jn. 8:36)

On the Cross of Christ, the price was paid in full for your freedom, so you can be freed from the bondage to sin. There is a Biblical term for this freedom that the Lord purchased for those who have Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The term is "redemption."

"Redemption" (*apolutrosis*) here means to let go free for a ransom. (Zodhiates; Vines) There are many forms of this word for "redemption" in the New Testament. (*lutroo*): One is "The recalling of captives, referring to sinners from captivity, the bondage of sin, by the payment of a ransom for them through Christ's death. (Zodhiates) It is important to note that in a least four passages of Scripture sin is presented as slavery. (John 8:34; Romans 6:17,20; 2 Peter 2:19)

Another form of the Greek word for "redemption" (*lutron*) means "Deliverance on account of the ransom paid" as spoken of the deliverance from the power and the eternal consequences of sin which Christ purchased by laying down His life as a ransom for those who believe. (Zodhiates; Vines) Redeemed (*lutroo*) by the highest cost possible, through the shed blood of Christ. Redeemed, (*agorazo*) literally set free from the slave market of sin, death, and hell. Redeemed (*exagorazo*) literally delivered out of the enslavement to sin. (Practical Word Studies of the New Testament)

The child of God has been set free and is at liberty to live a life of real meaning, freed from the sinful passions that destroy fellowship with the Lord and devastates lives. In the first century whenever the Greek Word (*lutron*) for "redemption" was used, people

would naturally know that it was referring to the price being paid to free slaves. (Vines; Rick Warren)

Angel Share News Letter, ran the true testimony of a couple:

Have you accepted God's free Gift? It must be noted that a gift is not yours until you take it and receive it. Suppose I hand you this Bible and say, "Here, this is yours, I give it to you as a free gift. Take it, it is yours. What is necessary for the Bible, the gift, to become yours?

You have to believe it is yours and reach out and receive it. You could say, "No thank you" or "I do not believe you!" You can deny its existence or say "I do not want it, I do not have the time to use it." If this is your attitude, what happens to the gift? It never becomes yours. In my mind and heart and in truth I gave you the gift, yet you never received it. You never had the faith to receive the gift I offered you.

Have you reached out and truly received God's gift of grace found through Jesus Christ? Have you been freed from the from the guilt of sin, redeemed, literally set free from the bondages that can keep you out of fellowship with God, with Jesus Christ and walking in step with the Holy Ghost? Can people look at you and just know that you are one of the redeemed?

In Closing: The Bible says, "...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you." (Romans 8:11) Easter is about coming alive.

The death of Christ is the redemptive price. Those who have connected to the "Ever-Flowing Life of Easter live a "Life Full of Meaning" and have a "Life Freed by Grace," God's call for you is simply, live no longer to please self, but live a life that reflects the truths of Easter, God's redemptive work in your life.

Let us Pray!