

Weekly Devotional Column

By JAMES MACKENZIE

As they returned from the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus casually revealed to Peter, James and John, that He would arise again from the dead. Like many today, they did not understand what He meant. Also like many of us today, they failed to ask Him to explain it to them, but pooled their ignorance, and questioned "one with another what the rising from the dead should mean" (Mark 9:9-10).

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ mean?

First of all, it is God's declaration to a world dead in trespasses and sin that here is indeed His only begotten Son, with power to triumph over death and hell. Two men are called "The Son of God" in the Bible: Adam and Jesus (see Luke 3:38). But Adam forfeited his position when he sinned, and incurred the death penalty. Not only that, but the penalty for sin, eternal death, passed upon all men because of him (Romans 5:12). Jesus, on the other hand, as God come in the flesh, lived a sinless life, and was "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (Romans 1:4).

What does this mean to you? It means that you too may have the assurance of eternal life, and be able to honestly call God your Father, if you will receive His Son, Jesus, as your own personal Saviour; for "as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12). This, in essence, is what takes place when a person is Born Again. When you receive Christ as your Saviour, the Holy Spirit places you into the body of Christ; because He died, you become dead unto sin; because He arose from the dead, you become alive unto God, you are born into the family of God, you receive (at the moment you take Him as your Saviour) eternal life.

This is what Jesus meant when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). That is what Paul meant when he said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are

33 years ago they told me "YOU HAVE LESS THAN A YEAR TO LIVE!"

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"BUT HERE I AM. They found a treatment—insulin—in time. Today, nobody has to die of diabetes.

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"THEY NEED MONEY, though. \$5,000,000 is still less than 4 cents per American per year. Not enough to find the answer fast—230,000 Americans will die of cancer this year, they say.

"I'M NOT RICH, but I gave 'em \$50 last year. After all, where would I be if the laboratories working on diabetes, that time, hadn't been given enough support—?"

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MAN'S CRUELEST ENEMY
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passed away: behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). And that is why Paul could triumphantly cry, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? . . . But thanks be unto God,

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which giveth us the victory through out Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:55, 57).

But the resurrection of our Lord Jesus means more than this. Because He arose from the dead, "He ever liveth to make intercession for us" (Hebrews 7:25). He is our High Priest (Hebrews 9:11), our only Priest (Hebrews 7:23 - 8:5). As our Priest (a priest is one who makes sacrifices for sin, and intercedes with God), He made one sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:25-28); a sacrifice that is all sufficient. This sacrifice having been made (and this wonderful Son of God was both Priest and Sacrifice), it is rank blasphemy to make a pretense of crucifying Him anew (Hebrews 10:10-18). Also, as our living High Priest, He ever liveth to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:24-28). He

is the only Mediator between God and man ("For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" I Timothy 2:5) He is our Advocate (I John 2:1); that is, He is our Lawyer, by the sufficiency of His once-for-all sacrifice, He is able to restore the sinning saint to fellowship with the Father. It is impossible to pray to the Father except through the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6). All other roads to God are but blind alleys. There is no further need of priests to carry the sinner's prayers to God, for through Christ we are bidden to "come boldly unto the throne of grace" (Hebrews 4:16).

Not only this, but the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ makes secure His precious promise, which is the blessed hope of all Christians, that He will come again to re-

ceive us unto Himself.

Do you know, personally, the power of His resurrection? What can Easter mean to you if you are yet dead in your sins because you have not accepted the eternal life so freely offered you in and by the risen Christ. Is He your High Priest, or do you trust another? Do you come to God through Him who said "no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6), or are you groping down blind alleys with dead ends? Right now, get out your Bible; look up the references I have cited. Receive Christ

as your own personal Saviour, and rest upon Him, and Him alone for salvation.

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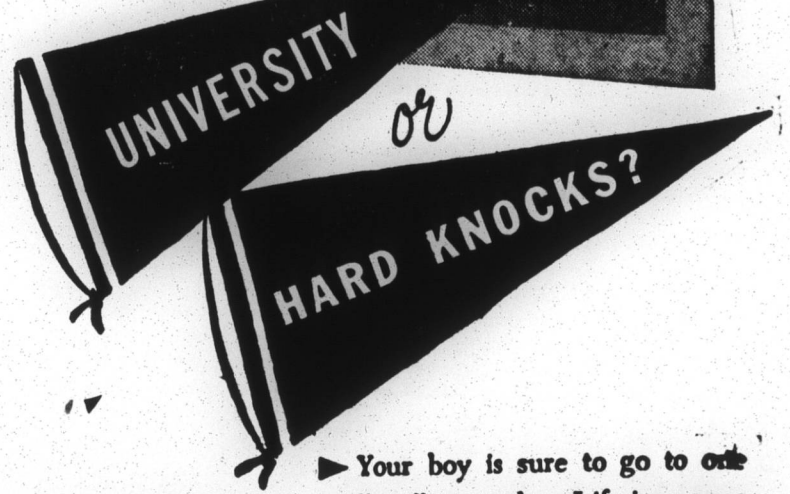
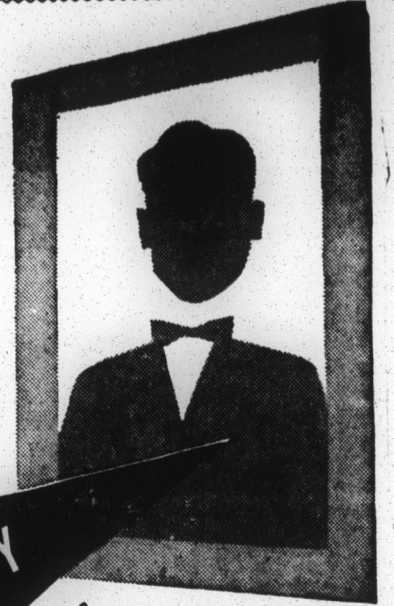
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