

Easter Sunday 2016

Three Important Words

1. Faith

Our relationship with God based on faith.

Romans 1:16-17 –

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.” NKJ

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.” NASB

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written, “The righteous will live by faith.” NIV

This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life. NLT

- a. Faith is the choice we make to believe God’s word. Faith is not a feeling. Faith is not a conclusion based upon mere logic or even evidence. Faith is our choice to believe.
- b. God’s Word – **Romans 3:21-24**
 - i. We choose to believe what God says about us.
 - ii. We choose to believe what God says He did for us.

2. Baptism, the Sacrament of New Beginning

- a. Everyone requires a new beginning, a new birth. Baptism is the sacrament... an outward visible sign of an inward and spiritual reality that pictures to us our need for a new beginning.
 - i. **John 3:3** – born again
 - ii. **I Corinthians 15:20-22**
 - iii. It is by faith that a new birth takes place. The minute a person chooses to believe God’s word, the miracle of spiritual birth takes place and that person is no longer of Adam, but rather of Christ, and declared “righteous” by God!

3. Communion, The Sacrament of ongoing relationship

- a. **John 6:53-58** – Manna was the food that sustained the Israelites, Jesus is the true food that sustains us now.
- b. **John 1:1, 14** – Jesus is the Word of God!
- c. We need spiritual nourishment to become all that God wants us to be. Communion speaks of this and is our reminder that we need to continually “feed” on God.