**2023 04 09 Easter Message by Patrick Gray**

Bible Readings Luke 24v1-12, and v13-32.

**Five thoughts for Easter**

Easter does not have the same cultural clout that Christmas does in our Western tradition. However, it really marks the glorious culmination of all that Christmas pointed to.

Here are five thoughts to return us to what Easter really means.

**DOOM (Judgement – Gen 3:15)**

***And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.***

The human race is a doomed race, as it ploughs on in its own strength. It is not just set at 'O' but at '-O'. We have offended a holy God and been cast into a realm of time, sin, disease, death and judgement. There is a hostility between man and God now, which didn't exist at Creation. A war has been ongoing, in which you are either following the crowd, blinded by Satan, or not. To be doomed is as natural as breathing air. The world promises no sure alternative, although many false religions and philosophies brazenly offer their charms.

**WOMB** (promise – Gen 3:15)

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

**2**

The only hope that we as a race have is the seed of the woman; the One would come from a faraway eternity down into the murky depths of time, to live a perfect life, die an unjust death and take our judgement upon Himself. The kingdoms of the world, the kingdom of Satan, is doomed, yes, but through the womb of the virgin came the Second Person of the Trinity. Jesus Christ is the pinnacle of all things; all revolves around who He is, what He did, and where He is now. The world measures its time from Before Christ to Anno Domini.

**TOMB (Death – Luke 23:53)**

***And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.***

Jesus Christ really did die. He didn't just swoon or pretend to be dead; He actually went into the undiscovered country from which no traveller returns.

He lay in the tomb and His body became as cold as the stone in which He was incarcerated.

All appeared to be lost; the devil and hordes of fallen angels rejoiced. Pilate and the Pharisees breathed a sigh of relief. Death appeared to have been victorious and to snuffed out His candle and it appeared to be business as usual, in this cacophony of distractions, duties and deadlines which discourage us from examining our souls.

**3**

**GLOOM** **(Unbelief based on Luke 24:11)**

***And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.***

The early believers were beleaguered and forlorn. They didn't know what to do with themselves and were reluctant to believe mere words, belittling the testimony of those early-bird women who were so in love with their Saviour that they cared not for the hierarchy and etiquette of their patriarchal culture. The hearts of men who should have been alert were instead sluggish and despondent. They did not believe because they would not believe. They refused to unstop their ears and open their eyes to the remarkable truth that Christ arose from the dead in accord with the Scriptures.

**LOOM** **(Based on Luke 24:31)**

***And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.***

Christ walked among those early believers. Two of them were privileged to be wayfarers with Him, literally, in the flesh. However, the Holy Spirit revealed this knowledge to them gradually; as soon as they knew Him, He departed. **Why?** Because they like we are to live by faith, cleaving to the words of eternal life which dwell beneath our fingertips every day.

Will this light start to **‘loom’** over you this Easter? What are you waiting for?

**4**

The notion of **'loom'** would be something coming to light or dawning on someone, i.e. the Emmaus pair's eyes were opened, and they realised the full extent of the resurrection associated with the many prophecies of Christ throughout the Old Testament.

Similarly, many of the children have been attending Sunday school / teen class for many years but must pray for their eyes to be opened – to KNOW Him, as mentioned in that verse. Christ speaks to us through His word, yet there must come a day of enlightenment, a day of new birth.

Millions of religious people who call themselves 'Christian' throughout the world focus only on the cross, the suffering, the death of Christ – true Christians have been given eyes to see the risen Saviour and look forward with certain hope to His return and being welcomed into eternity to live with Him for ever.