

OUR RISEN LORD, OUR BLESSED HOPE!

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Almost every day in the past weeks, we have received prayer requests for healing from Covid-19. These requests are no longer for strangers anymore, but for family, friends, immediate relatives, and church members. This virus is really hitting closer to home.

In these moments, we need to exercise faith and prudence. We need to believe God is in control. We pray for God to protect us and our loved ones. At the same time, we have to exercise prudence. We need to take care of ourselves so as not to be reckless and careless. We need to wear masks, wear face shields, sanitize hands often, and avoid other people outside our bubble as much as possible.

Many are being affected by the surge of this Covid-19 in our community. It affects us physically, emotionally, and mentally. This is the best time to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, the Author and Perfecter of our faith.

The writer of Hebrews wrote:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."
- Hebrews 12:1-2

Let us continue to run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We may not understand why such things are happening around the world, in our nation, and in our family and personal life, but we need to accept the fact that this is the road that God wants us to take during this season.

It will not be an easy run. It will not be a walk in the park. But our hope is in Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. He endured the Cross. He died. But on the third day, God the Father raised Him from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God overseeing our life. As we keep looking up to Jesus, who endured the cross, let us set our mind on things above. The Apostle Paul wrote:

"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."
- Colossians 3:1-2

Since Christ has raised us from spiritual death, we must set our minds on spiritual things (Colossians 3:1-4), put off sinful things (Colossians 3:5-11), and put on spiritual values (Colossians 3:12-17). These should affect all and every dimension of our relationship with others (Colossians 3:18-4:1)

As believers of Jesus, He has raised us from spiritual death. He has given us new life, a life that is eternal. We have died to sin and our life is hidden with Christ in God.

The Apostle Paul further said:

"For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."
- Colossians 3:3-4

To be "hidden" means to be secured in a safe place. And no place is more safe than being secure "with Christ in God." In the midst of all these challenges, be confident we are safe and secure in the loving arms of our Risen Lord! When Christ returns, He will take us to be with him in all His glory.

As we wait for that "blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13), let us keep on pointing people to Jesus and to pursue our God-given mission of reproducing followers of Jesus who seeks to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."
- Romans 15:13 ✠