

Sermon Summary for 1st April, 2018

“DEATH COULD NOT HOLD ITS PREY”

Luke 24: 1 - 12; 1 Cor. 15: 3 - 22

(Dr. Yaw Perbi)

“1In my former book, *Theophilus*, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach 2until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3After his suffering, **he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs** [including eating with them which he mentions in verse 4 during which he tells them to tarry in Jerusalem] **that he was alive. He appeared to them** [multiple people] **over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.**” Acts 1: 1-3.

It can be verified from multiple sources that “Death could not hold its prey”.

There were eye-witnesses of the greatest event in human history, one that had been foretold thousands of years prior to its fulfillment.

“22“Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, **as you yourselves know.** 23This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because **it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.**” Acts 2:22-24

On the day of Pentecost (fifty days after the Passover), Peter charged the crowd with having put the Christ to death on a cross. Then he adds: “but God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses to it” (Acts 2) - and the crowd could not challenge or contradict him.

Because death could not keep Jesus in the grave, there are three important things to do according to 1 Corinthians 15:

i. Remember this truth. : “1Now, brothers and sisters, I want to **remind** you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.”

ii. Remain in the faith. Hold firmly to the gospel, otherwise your belief is in vain and you will be a false witness concerning what God has done. “2By this gospel you are saved, **if you hold firmly** to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.”

The greatest evidence of Christ’s resurrection is actually in our changed lives! The greatest danger to remaining in the truth is the company you keep. Bad company corrupts good character.

iii. Re-engage fully in proclaiming and demonstrating the truth. —“**ALWAYS GIVE YOURSELVES FULLY TO THE WORK OF THE LORD**, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” Grace is not an excuse to be luke-warm. Grace should be the reason to work even harder. Take risk for God and the gospel. Invest in things that will outlast you.

Let us preach! Let us publish! Let us proclaim! Let us translate! Let us demonstrate (live it) - that “Death could not hold its prey”, knowing that our labour in the Lord is not in vain.

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 55“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?” 56The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember with your head. Remain in your heart. Re-engage with your hands. Death has been swallowed up in victory!

BIBLE STUDY LEADERS’ & ASSISTANTS’ MEETING — THIS WEEK!

All Bible Study Leaders and Assistants are reminded of their meeting with the Coordinators at 6.30pm on **WEDNESDAY**, 11th and **THURSDAY**, 12th April.

Please prepare **Lesson 4** (The Book of Judges) **BEFORE** the meeting.

This Week’s Prayer Topics

✠ Pray that God would teach us to focus on Him; looking only to Him for direction at all times (Isaiah 55:6)

✠ Pray for God’s comfort, strength, and divine guidance for all bereaved families in LIC and LIC as a whole. Pray for the spouses and children, that the Lord Himself will fill the void left in their lives (Matt. 5:4; Isaiah 41:10; Psalm 68:4-5)

✠ Pray into the LIC AGM for 22nd April, 2018. Ask that the will and wisdom of God for LIC will be revealed. Pray for all the leaders as the Church prepares towards the AGM (Matt. 6:10; 1 John 5:14-15)

CONGRATULATIONS!!! BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS

Apr 08: Mrs. Jessica Zeal
Apr 08: Mr. Richard Nana Boakoh
Apr 08: Mrs. Abigail Asalu-Bimi
Apr 08: Mr. Alexander Owusu-Biney
Apr 08: Mr. Maxwell Twum-Boateng
Apr 09: Ms. Beatrice Mensah-Wilmot
Apr 09: Ms. Phoebe Washington-Nortey
Apr 09: Mr. Eric Buamah
Apr 09: Ms. Diana Amoah Jnr
Apr 09: Mr. David Karl Doodoo
Apr 10: Ms. Precious A. Opoku
Apr 10: Mr. Kweku Folsom
Apr 10: Mr. Immanuel Kofi Agamah
Apr 10: Mr. John Abedu Quashie
Apr 11: Mrs. Sandra A. Owusu Adjah
Apr 11: Mr. Evans Edem Agra
Apr 11: Mrs. Irene Agyemang
Apr 11: Dr. Kwabena Akyeampong-Aye
Apr 11: Mr. Kofi Asare Sakyi
Apr 12: Mr. Ryan Kwejdo Parker Adams
Apr 12: Mr. Charles Debrah Asante
Apr 12: Mr. Kwesi Amonoo Amisah
Apr 12: Master Elorm Agamah
Apr 13: Mr. Wilson Kwasi Goli
Apr 13: Dr. Lawrence Sereboe
Apr 13: Ms. Akua A. Sarfo-Mensah
Apr 13: Mrs. Evelyn Darkey
Apr 14: Mr. Isaac Fianu
Apr 14: Mr. E. Nii Lante Lamptey
Apr 14: Mr. Randy Ackah Mensah

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Apr 09: Kwamina & Josephine Van-Ess
Apr 09: Kwaku & Comfort Tano-Debrah

WELCOME



TO

LEGON INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH

SUNDAY, 8TH APRIL, 2018



Influencing Generations
Through Christ-like Discipleship

Pastors:

Rev. Francis Yaw Boamah

Tel: 024 464 6205

Rev. (Mrs.) Agnes Phillips

Tel: 026 638 0874

Presiding Elder:

Mr. Larry Yirenykyi-Boafo

AT REST

Church Administrator:

Mr. T.V.O. Lamptey

Tel: 026 742 8150

LEGON INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH (LIC)

Address: P. O. Box LG 756, Legon

Ghana Post GPS: GA-552-7180

Tel: 030-7071717

What’sApp No.: 054 200 0687

Email: licadmin@licfamily.org.gh

Website: www.licfamily.org.gh

LIC: SAVED TO SERVE!

The Council of Elders and Pastors heartily welcome you to God's House this Sunday morning: Akwaaba!

YEAR'S THEME: "THE MISSION OF JESUS - A CALL TO PARTNERSHIP"

SUNDAY, 8TH APRIL, 2018 — SERVICE STARTS @ 9: 15AM

Officiant: Mr. Romeo Bugyei
 Sermon Topic: "Jesus Welcomes Little Children"
 Preacher: Dr. Mrs. Araba Sefa-Dedeh
 Lectors: Mrs. Dinah Agbeko and Ms. Victoria Dodoo
 Notices: Dr. Nana Akua Anyidoho
 Scripture Passages: **Psalm 127: 3 - 5 and Mark 10: 13 - 16**
 Opening Hymn: "For the beauty of the earth"
 Song Ministration: The Dokus
 Song Ministration: LIC Choir
 Closing Hymn: "This is my Father's world"

REFLECTION: Children forever!

Ever pondered why God chooses to call us children? It is easier to groom children than to fix broken men. The entire godly plan that is still unfolding is to reset us back to the manufacturer's settings – children. Children who will look to what they will become and not men who look at what they have become. God is looking for good imitators, not good listeners; copycats not originals; impersonators not entrepreneurs. These can only be children. —JNA (April - 2018)

STUDENTS' SERVICE @ 6:30AM

SUNDAY, 8TH APRIL, 2018 (COMMUNION SERVICE)

Sermon Topic: "Blindness in Degrees" Preacher: Rev. Francis Yaw Boamah
 Scripture Passages: Isaiah 6: 8-10 and Mark 8: 11-26 Time: 6:30am

NEXT SUNDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2018

Sermon Topic: "Who Do You Say Jesus Is?" Preacher: Mr. Kofi Duodu Asoomang
 Scripture Passages: Isaiah 49: 5-7 Mark 8: 27-30 Time: 6:30am

NEXT SUNDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2018 (COMMUNION SERVICE)

Officiant: Prof Esther Sakyi-Dawson
 Sermon Topic: "Discipleship: The Price and The Prize"
 Preacher: Rev. Francis Yaw Boamah
 Lectors: Dr. (Mrs.) Akua Ofor-Asumadu and Mr. Julian Larbi-Akor
 Scripture Readings: **1 Kings 19: 19-21; 2 Kings 2: 9-14 and Mark 10: 17-31**
 Notices: Mr. Kofi-Kakraba Afful



Activity for 8th April, 2018

**SHARING THE VISION/
TREASURE HUNT**

Leaders:
Youth Executives
Time is **4:00pm @ LIC**

Visitors' Reception for APRIL, 2018

Mrs. Amanda Derban & Ms. Aileen Asafu-Adjaye

LIC EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Application Forms for support for the 2018/2019 academic year are available at the Church Office. Applications may be submitted from now till Sunday, 15th July, 2018. Applicants should be registered members of LIC with a minimum of 2 years of membership. The Fund supports students at the vocational, technical and tertiary levels up to First Degree ONLY.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

We publish for the THIRD and FINAL TIME, the bans between **Mr. Joshua Andrews Asante Okyere Mensah** of LIC and **Ms. Stephanie Afriyie Yeboah** of Victory Bible Church International, Destiny Sanctuary, Kasoa. Please inform the Pastors or Presiding Elder if you know of any just and valid reason why these two may not be lawfully joined together in marriage. Kindly keep them in prayer.

SUNDAY, 8TH APRIL, 2018

Dr. Mrs. Eureka Ahadjie Adomako (0244-281821)
 Mr. Kwadwo Otu Addae (0243-367611)

Dr. Awo Mana Asiedu (0244-575177)
 Mr. K.K. Ohene-Adu (0244-631600)

ELDERS ON DUTY

Reception

Counseling

NEXT SUNDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2018

Prof. Esther Sakyi-Dawson (050 256 8615)
 Mrs. Monica Senanu (0244748746)

Mr. Charles MacCarthy (0244353522)
 Dr. George T-M. Kwadzo (020-8161624)

PRAYING WITH ONE ANOTHER

The Prayer Ministry requests the under-listed persons to kindly provide the Ministry with their active/current contact numbers and professions as they pray for them this week. The Ministry's week begins on Monday and runs until Saturday.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Philip Annor Mensah | Mr. David Ofori | Mr. Ife Adeoye |
| Mrs. Evelyn A. Bani | Mr. Arnold Nana Yaw Asiedu Odei | Mr. Selassey Adjokatse |
| Ms. Sandra Pio | Mr. Obed Asare | Ms. Akua Afreh-Nuamah |
| Ms. Helen Seshie-Nasser | Mrs. Nana Esi Idun-Arkhurst | Ms. Dora Agmorkey Amponsah |
| Ms. Dorlina Abena Acquah | Ms. Grace Takyi Donkor | |

Kindly contact the following people with any two specific prayer requests, latest by 12 noon on Wednesday: Mr. Kofi Yeboah - 0244875493 and Mrs. Ruth Opoku - 0509547267. Also, **please update your records with the Church Office.**



MID-WEEK SERVICES SCHEDULE AND OTHER PROGRAMMES

YEAR THEME: "THE MISSION OF JESUS — A CALL TO PARTNERSHIP"

Coordinator - Mr. Stanley Asante-Berko (0243061884)

| DATE | TIME | OFFICIANT | ACTIVITY | SERMON TOPIC | PREACHER |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Fri. 13-Apr | 10:00pm-4:00am | Mr. Kofi Yeboah | All-Night Prayer Meeting | SHOW US THY GLORY (Exodus 33: 12 - 23) | Dr. Yaw Perbi |
| Wed. 18-Apr | 6:30pm-8:30pm | Mr. Terry Jumah | BETHESDA MOMENT (John 5:1-9) | To be led by Mr. Kofi Yeboah. Music by the LIC Choir. | |
| Sat. 21-Apr | 9:00am-12:30pm | CHURCH RETREAT | | | |
| SUN. 22-Apr | 9:15am | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | | | |
| Wed. 25-Apr | 6:30pm-8:00pm | CHRISTIAN LIFE SEMINAR | | | |

◇ **PRAYER MEETINGS:**

Sunday Morning: Prayer for Sunday Activities @ 7:30 am - 7:50 am; Sunday Evening: In the Conference Room @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm; Monday: In the Vestry @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm; Wednesday: Prayer & Teaching Service @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm in the Sanctuary, except for 'Bethesda Moment' which will be from 6.30 – 8.30 pm; Saturday: Prayer for Missions @ 7:00 - 8:30am on the Right Verandah of the Sanctuary; All Night Prayer Meeting: 1st Friday of the Month @ 10 pm - 4:00 am in the Sanctuary.

◇ **BIBLE STUDIES:** Sunday: 8:00 - 9:00am; Monday: 6:45 - 8:00pm

“CRUCIFIED, DEAD AND BURIED”

Isaiah 53: 5 - 12 and John 19: 16 - 30, 38 - 42

(Rev. Mrs. Agnes Phillips)

“Crucified, Dead and Buried”. This phrase, taken from the Apostles’ Creed, is meant to emphasize the fact that Jesus came into the world as a human being, paid the full price for the sin of humanity, and eye witnesses could vouch for this truth. To counter the myths and lies that were peddled around Jesus crucifixion by people who were eager to stifle the fast-spreading Christian faith, this historical truth was enshrined in the summary of the Christian faith.

Sin entered the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. When they chose to listen to Satan, disguised as a serpent in the garden, and ignored the Lord God who had blessed them abundantly, they transferred their allegiance to the devil and came under his bondage and servitude. Sin killed humanity spiritually—we became eternally separated from God. It also killed us physically, we became mortals. Sin also weakened us morally and we lost our moral capacity to do right. Or natural inclination bent towards evil. But Satan was not to have the last word, God was determined to retrieve us and buy us back from Satan’s grip. The only person who could buy back wayward humanity had to be morally superior to and spiritually stronger than Adam. Our Redeemer had to be a sinless, spotless person to give his life in exchange for humanity’s sin-twisted life. That person is Jesus. God sent his Son to deal with the sin problem. Nearly 700 years before Christ came into the world, the Prophet Isaiah spoke of the kind of death he was to die and the meaning of his death. *“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray, each of us have turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”* (Isaiah 53: 5-6)

Jesus, very much aware of his mission, spoke about his crucifixion several times, emphasizing the kind of death he was to die. In Mark 8:31-32; 10 32-34, John 12:32-33, Jesus predicted his death. Crucifixion was a shameful, painful, dehumanizing and disgusting way to die. The price of redemption was costly. When the disciples saw their hopes and dreams nailed to a tree, they all ran away. But John, the beloved Apostle, together with Mary the mother of Jesus and the other women who had come all the way from Galilee, were eyewitnesses to this cosmic drama. The inscription on the cross, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek, the international languages of the time, proclaimed Jesus to be King of the Jews, and the Romans, ironically, and indeed of the whole world. After fulfilling his full mission, Jesus committed his spirit into God’s hands and died of his own accord. As the perfect Passover Lamb, there was no need to break his legs to hasten death (Exodus 12:46) His death broke the mystery surrounding death because he faced death directly, but the tomb was not his permanent abode.

Two secret disciples of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, came out of hiding, put their prestige and social standing aside, requested for Jesus’ body and gave him a decent burial. These two teach us that it is never too late to do something for Jesus. Because of what they did, the women knew where to go on Easter morning. **Crucified, dead and buried.** These painful historical events with deep spiritual and eternal significance, brought immense good to humanity. That is why crucifixion day became Good Friday. Because of what happened, our sins have been atoned for, ‘God and sinners have reconciled’—eternally.

SUB THEME: “HIS GUILT, OUR INNOCENCE”

Ephesians 1: 1 - 23

(Dr. Yaw Perbi)

Our whole BIG BANNER THEME—HIS PAIN OUR GAIN—and all the daily sub-themes are based on a major theological principle called SUBSTITUTION.

On the cross, JESUS TOOK our place and bore the punishment for our sins!

He was our SUBSTITUTE.

A good picture of that is when God provided a Ram for Abraham to sacrifice INSTEAD of his son Isaac

We see in Colossians 2:13, for example, that there’s NO WAY we could have saved ourselves: *“When you were DEAD in your sins...God made you alive with Christ.”*

The only way the TRIUMPH of LIFE from death and live OVER death could happen was for the Giver of Life Himself to TAKE OUR PLACE!

At the end of these days of renewal, as we look at the Gospel from 3 DIFFERENT ANGLES/PERSPECTIVES (what Jason George calls “3 D Gospel”), may the Father refresh our souls, revive our spirits and stir up FRESH LOVE for JESUS as the Spirit gives us FRESH EYES with which to see the Gospel and Easter.

When we look at the story of salvation from the **problem in the garden (Eden)**, **God’s solution (Easter)** and **what this implies (Existence today)** we tend to look at it in one dimension (1D) or maybe 2D; but hardly in 3D. Westerners generally look at life and Easter through a GUILT-INNOCENCE lens, Asians a shame-honour lens and Africans mainly through a FEAR-POWER lens.

Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:18-19 helps us to appreciate this *“...that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you [Guilt-Innocence], the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people [Shame-Honour], and his incomparably great power for us who believe [Fear-Power].”*

Holding in mind both the ability to SEE and the THREE DIMENSIONS highlighted above, let’s look at 3 things pertaining to the AMAZING Easter story and strategy of God in 3D.

EDEN in 3D: Why the Gospel? What went wrong?

Adam and Eve’s original sin introduced guilt, shame, and fear to the world.

EASTER in 3D: Why Jesus at Easter?

Jesus Christ cured the original sin problem restoring innocence, honour, and power to humankind.

EXISTENCE TODAY in 3D: “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you...” (1:18)

Adam and Eve’s original sin, which we inherited (and have heaped on top of that our own), introduced sin and guilt to the world.

Jesus Christ cured the original sin problem restoring innocence. Because of that we have PROPITIATION—wrath turned away. We don’t just have FORGIVENESS, restoring our innocence which we now call JUSTIFICATION—JUST AS IF I never sinned!

May God remind us of how deadly sin is. The cross was the only way the wrath of God could be satisfied. It was the only way he could pay for sin without lowering his standards.

“Christ never sinned! But God treated him as a sinner, so that Christ could make us acceptable to God.” 2Cor 5:21 (CEV)

What should be our response?

- REPENT! Sin is SERIOUS! Don’t toy with sin; if it wasn’t serious God would not “CRUSH HIS SON!” for us.
- If you know you’re forgiven, then don’t be GUILT-RIDDEN. “No guilt in life, no fear in death” He breaks the power of canceled sin; He sets the prisoners free; His blood can make the foulest clean.
- Being forgiven of our sins, we are called to forgive others.
- Share this TRUTH with HOPE with those who’ve given up on themselves.

For those who have not received this free gift, God is just; he will come and judge sin at the end of the age! BUT there is HOPE.

“Because Jesus reconciles us to God, our efforts towards moral perfection are in vain. We are saved by faith as a gracious gift from God, not by our own merit.”

To become a follower of Jesus, one must recognize and confess the truth of their sin before God and REPENT from your hopeless ways of trying to look good.

SUB THEME: “HIS SHAME, OUR HONOUR”

Ephesians 2: 1 - 12

(Dr. Yaw Perbi)

Although guilt, shame, and fear are three distinct cultural outlooks, no culture can be completely characterized by only one. These three dynamics interplay and overlap in all societies.

For example, Akans have a saying, “*Animguase mfata Okani ba*” (disgrace is unbecoming of an Akan child). That’s not just fear-power typical of Africans; it is honor-shame as well.

On the cross, JESUS TOOK our place and bore the consequences for our sins!

Life is not about us! Even such a great salvation, with its substitution, propitiation, forgiveness, justification and all, is not about us.

God has done all these things not for our sake but FOR HIS OWN SAKE—EVERYTHING is for God’s glory

From time immemorial, even “before the creation of the world” (Eph. 1:4) God has been on mission FOR HIS GLORY

Indeed the passage in Ephesians 1:11 reminds us that, “in him we were also chosen...” “in order that (vs. 12) “we... might be for the praise of his glory!”

It’s appropriate to stress GOD’S GLORY since we are focusing on how he took up our shame in order that we might have honour!

Let us look at the 3 things pertaining to the AMAZING Easter story and the strategy of God in 3D, through a shame-honour lens.

EDEN in 3D: Why the Gospel? What went wrong?

Adam and Eve’s original sin introduced guilt, shame, and fear to the world.

EASTER in 3D: Why Jesus at Easter?

Jesus Christ cured the original sin problem restoring innocence, honour, and power to humankind.

Jesus, who was obviously NOT GUILTY, became GUILTY, so we could become INNOCENT.

Things God permitted to be done to him that showed HE TOOK ON SHAME: Betrayed, arrested like a thief, tried like a criminal, stripped NAKED, beaten/lashed mercilessly, spat on, mocked, Crucified—shame! Shame! Shame! The Romans WOULD never crucify a citizen; and for the Jews, “cursed is he who hangs upon a tree”.

EXISTENCE TODAY in 3D: I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people” (1:18)

“...in love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ” (1:5)

You see, the Greek word translated as “adoption to sonship” is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture

That is how you and I, not just in the guilt of sin but the shame of slavery, have now been REDEEMED—bought from the slave market of sin—and given the highest possible honour as ADOPTED children of God, HEIRS of the Father “*We are heirs of the father, we are joint-heirs with the son...*”.

Verse 13-14 of Ephesians 1 even says you have been STAMPED with the Holy Spirit, “*who is a DEPOSIT GUARANTEEING [your inheritance until the [final] redemption of [you] who are God’s possession—[again], to the praise of his glory!*”

“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” (2:6). This is honour! From slaves to sons, from shame to honour.

Our NUMBER ONE honour is our NEW IDENTITY as children of the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

What should be our response?

- Confession and Renunciation of Shame - Don’t live with shame be it your looks, tribe, academic records etc. Christ exchanged that shame long ago at Calvary
- Repentance for False Honour – Don’t hide behind designer wear, high class cars, a seemingly good family pedigree or family name. Take the real, lasting, non-fluctuating everlasting honour.
- **Repentance from Ethnocentrism and Tribalism** - Even in the church! **14**For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15**by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16**and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. Eph 2:14-16
- **Let’s just Revel in God’s Honour** - BRING THANKS, PRAISE & ADORE JESUS!!!

SUB THEME: “HIS FEAR, OUR POWER”

Ephesians 3: 1 - 21

(Dr. Yaw Perbi)

Of the three substitutions, this is the most difficult to accept—that Jesus took upon himself fear. Because we see the confidence and willingness “*no one takes my life, Jesus said, I lay it down willingly and I have power to take it up again*”... *But also God is perfect love and “perfect love drives out all fear”* How can Jesus fear then? But if the principle of substitution is true, then how could a holy God be **guilty** or a glorious King have **shame**? Jesus must have feared, but not his fear, OUR fear.

We see a GLIMPSE of it in the Garden of Eden, when Jesus rebuked Peter for wanting to stop him from the agony and shame of the cross, kneels down and prays:

42“Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” **43**An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. **44**And being in **anguish** [acute distress, excruciating pain à our exhilarating gain], he prayed more earnestly, and **his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground**.

We conclude with the 3rd dimension of the Easter story.

EDEN in 3D: Why the Gospel? What went wrong?

Adam and Eve’s original sin introduced guilt, shame, and fear to the world.

EASTER in 3D: Why Jesus at Easter?

Jesus Christ cured the original sin problem restoring innocence, honour, and power to humankind.

13When you were dead in your sins [same idea of Eph 2:1, “dead in your transgressions and sins”] and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, **14**having canceled the charge of our **legal indebtedness**, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. **15**AND **having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross**. Col. 2:13-15

18I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... **19**... his incomparably **great power** for us who believe. **That power is the same as the mighty strength 20he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22**And God placed **all things under his feet** and appointed him to be head over everything **FOR THE CHURCH**..., **23**which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Eph. 1: 18-23

Although God kept the mystery of the Gospel a secret for thousands of years (Eph. 3:1-6), we are the SECRET GENERATION TO UNLEASH HIS SECRET PLAN AND POWER.

EXISTENCE TODAY in 3D: “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... his incomparably great power for us who believe.” (1:18)

We are no longer slaves to fear... we are children of God. Stop living in fear like a slave to sin and Satan; use the resurrection power!

Don’t feel like you have power. The reality is that you have it. It’s not a hope or dream. But the BONDAGE HOLDER DOESN’T LET GO OFF HIS PREY VOLUNTARILY. YOU MUST DEMAND IT!

The only language Satan understands is POWER and you have it! “*How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.*” (Ps. 66:3)

What should be our response?

- **Take out the FEAR OF DEATH** in you -

14Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— **15**and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

- **APPLY THE BLOOD! – THE PASSOVER LAMB HAS BEEN SLAINED!!**