

## **Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – April 11, 2010**

### **Where Are All The People?**

**“By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.”**

**Hebrews 11:21**

Nearly 500 people came to worship services here at Grace last Sunday for Easter. Some of our people went to church with their families in other localities to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our sanctuary was decorated with lilies. The choir sang and the handbells played. The congregation heard the story of the resurrection and joined in to sing the beautiful Easter hymns in thankful adoration of our God. It was and is one of the high festivals of the church year.

Some could not make it for Easter Sunday worship. They were sick, hospitalized, or otherwise physically prohibited from going out. They were surely disappointed to miss such a joyful gathering before the Lord. For a good number of people Easter is just like any other day. They are totally dependent on the pastors to bring them communion and the Word of Reconciliation; and the pastors are pleased and blessed to do so. They just don't have the health and well being to get to God's house on Sunday. Oh how they wish they could be there before the altar of God with His people singing praises and hearing God's Word. They long for the opportunity to have even that brief weekly fellowship with the communion of saints gathered before the altar of God. Worship is their life and their hope. Oh, how they pray that things will change and they will once again be able to go into the house of the Lord.

Jacob was dying. He had little strength left in His feeble bones. Death was not far away. His priorities remained focused. Even in his frailty, worship was what was most important to him. His staff held him up because he could not stand on his own. He praised the God of heaven for His mercy and goodness. He had trust in the promise of the Messiah to come. He believed in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Now back to our busy lives. Easter festivities are past. It is just another Sunday. We have places to go, things to do, people to see! Have we so quickly forgotten the magnitude of what Christ has done for us? What if we were struck down by tragedy this week and we were no longer able to come to church? Life in this world comes with no guarantees of well being and unlimited time! Behold, now is the day of salvation!

We are the cherished and chosen people of God. Worship of Him is always our number one priority and focus. It comes ahead of everything else. In worship God meets His people blesses and forgives them, while preparing and strengthening them for the challenges ahead. Come young and old, feeble and strong, as long as the Lord allows us the strength so to do—let us gather every Sunday in the house of our God to praise Him!

- Remember: The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. If you see someone missing from worship this morning or if you haven't seen them here in awhile, why not give them a call this week and encourage them!
- Remember: Every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection---not just Easter Sunday! Our best witness to our eternal hope is to be worshipping in God's house every Sunday. It is our constant witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Savior.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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