

“Do You Love Me?” John 21 The Epilogue John 21:11-17

Our story in John 21 takes place during the Age of Israel which is divided into 3 parts:

1) The period of the patriarchs from Abraham to Moses. 2) The period of the Law from Moses to Christ. 3) The period known as the Tribulation.

There were many races and many languages on the earth during the Age of Israel and this is why God developed and commissioned a special nation to represent Him.

During the dispensation of the Age of Israel, the Holy Spirit was not given in the same way as He is today because Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ was not yet glorified; John 7:37-39.

Jesus was not yet seated at the right Hand of the Father but once He is, the Church Age ministry of the Holy Spirit can begin; John 16:14.

The Church Age in which we live is divided into two parts; the pre-canon period from AD 30 to AD 96 and the post-canon period from AD 96 to the present and beyond to the Rapture.

Only Jesus Christ could make a symbol of wickedness into a symbol of glorious victory!

Our Lord triumphed over His sufferings as He focused on His personal love for His Father and His impersonal love for us.

And when they laughed at Him as their hunted falsely accused felon was trapped and fastened to a tree, He prayed for His murderers, led a fellow recipient of this, the most excruciating form of capital punishment to eternal life and secured a new home for His mother!

We can be happy that Jesus' disciples were so sad because they doubted His very Words concerning His arrest, pre-trial treatment, trials, crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection and it all was recorded for us so that we can receive it and believe it and not ever doubt it.

But now the formerly defeated disciples were full of confidence and joy because they have seen the risen Christ for themselves!

Okay, let's say for the sake of argument that someone saying that they saw the risen Christ first hand, wasn't proof that He's alive again.

Fair enough but the undisputable proof of the resurrection has to be the incredible change in His lowly band of followers that for some unknown reason, suddenly had become:

1. Remarkably courageous in the face of great danger, 2. Ever-hopeful with no concern for their own well-being and 3. Undyingly faithful to their now absent Master!

The Lord Jesus illustrated the difference between forgiveness and legal standing or temporal fellowship and eternal relationship.

The issue in God's grace recovery technique for broken fellowship is not payment for sins but recognition of that payment being already made.

Three grace blessings from obedience to God: 1. Sometimes God reveals things to us that don't make any sense to us at first and later we see His blessing in it.

2. The blessing is always the result of obeying His command; James 1:22.

3. God's omnipotence can abundantly supply for any need in an instant!

We are here to get to know God, obey Him and represent Him.

Our capability to serve God depends on our capacity to love God.

In God's system, if you want to be strong,

you have to become weak and once you're weak, then you can become strong!