



The Taftsville Chapel Current

God calls us as followers of Jesus Christ and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow as a community of grace, joy and peace, so that God's healing and hope flow through us to our world.

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April 2012

It Had To Be This Way



As they walked along to Emmaus, Jesus “explained to them what was said in all the scriptures concerning himself” (Luke 24:27). We have been looking at the Old Testament over the last number of weeks to catch glimpses of some of what He may have said to the two disciples on the road. Much of what has come to light has been concerning His death as the atonement for us. Time and time again, the story shows both the reality of our need for Him and the promise of His sacrifice on our behalf. This plan was in place “from before the foundations of the earth” (Rev.13:8b), so, as Jesus said, “it had to be this way.” There are so many images, hints, and direct prophetic statements that point straight to an inevitability, a certainty, that God would provide the sacrifice needed to ensure that “a banished person may not remain estranged from him” (2 Samuel 14:14).

As Resurrection Day approaches, we can rejoice that there is another inevitability woven in to the same source material: He will arise, the first born from the dead, opening a way for us to follow! It had to be this way.

David saw it:

“Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your holy one see decay” (Psalm 16:8-10).

The sons of Korah saw it:

“But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead; he will surely take me to himself” (Psalm 49:15).

Isaiah saw it:

“But your dead will live, LORD; their bodies will rise - let those who dwell in the dust wake up and shout for joy - your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead” (Isa. 26:19).

Daniel saw it:

“As for you, go your way till the end. You will rest, and then at the end of the days you will rise to receive your allotted inheritance.” (Daniel 12:13).

Hosea saw it:

“I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction?” (Hosea 13:14).

Job saw it:

“I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:25-27).

It has been there all along, the promise of victory over death, so strongly told that those who believed it by faith had a hope that was certain.

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Paul proclaimed it:

“We tell you the good news: What God promised our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus.” (Acts 13:32-33).

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...” (1 Cor.15:3-4).

Peter proclaimed it:

“Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.” (Acts 2:29-31).

Martha proclaimed it:

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

And of course, Jesus Himself proclaimed it: “Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, ‘We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!’” (Matt. 20: 17-19).

In a world where so much is uncertain, where our plans are made but often have to be changed or even abandoned, where some good hopes can be postponed or even crushed, where there is so very little to fully rest in, the certainty of all that Jesus is has never changed and never will. This Easter, rest. Assured. It had to be this way.

Shalom to us all,

Randy

Photos from Last Easter

Each Easter, we gather before worship and take turns caring the cross up the hill behind our church. We pausing along the way to read scripture and change those carrying it.



TAFTSVILLE TIDBIT TRIVIA

Do you remember when...

45 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 23, 1967

We decided to hold one Sunday evening service per month during the summer. The Richard Glicks are in charge of our first meeting.

40 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 4, 1972

Improvements for parking lot and additional coat racks was tabled for later discussion. Monthly offering will be given to MCC for Bangladesh relief.

35 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 12, 1977

According to the council's decision, a phone has been installed at the church building.

April 30, 1977

Vermont Churches Workshop weekend. The speaker will be G. Irvin Lehman, speaking on "The Second Coming of the Lord". Two services will be held at Taftsville: Saturday afternoon at 2:30, and evening at 7:00 p.m. Candlelighters will be in charge of a light meal before the evening service. Sunday meetings will be at Bethany.

25 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 7, 1987

In view of Nelson and Ellen's plans to leave Vermont in August, a Pastoral Search committee is recommended consisting of the Pastoral Care Team, the Administrator, and one other person. This group will work closely with overseer Noah Kolb in contacting possible candidates.

15 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

April 17, 1997

Randy and Carie met with the Board of Directors at the Mid Vermont Christian School after learning of some past issues with Taftsville. A letter has been received from Mid Vermont apologizing for their part in the misunderstanding.



Taftsville Chapel Mennonite Fellowship

Located in the village of Taftsville, VT, one block south of Rt. 4 on Happy Valley Road.



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Send your contributions for the Current to: samuel.carbaugh@gmail.com or contact a Newsletter Staff member: Carie Good & Virginia Schlabach

This month's illustration by Mike McCrory