



WORDS FROM  
*Pastor Randy*

Most of the boys who signed up to play on the 8 year old soccer team had never played soccer before. Most of them had actually never even seen a soccer ball before. Miraculously, at the end of their first game, they had outscored their opponents by 3 goals.

The boys were ecstatic. They were jumping up and down, slapping each other on the back, and giving each other high fives!

The Coach asked the team, "Does anybody have anything they'd like to say?" One curious little boy raised his hand and asked, "Coach, did we really win?"

When you look at the cross where Jesus has died, you wonder, "Did He really win?" Where is His victory? It looked like utter defeat. He'd been arrested, falsely accused, brutally beaten, spat upon, nailed to a rugged tree, and left there to die like a common criminal. Is this really the Conquering Christ? Was this the way it was supposed to end? Could this possibly be in the game plan of redemption?

We know the rest of the story. Those dreadful 6 hours on Friday ended with our Lord's body being rushed off to Joseph's borrowed tomb. That began what had to be the longest weekend in all of human history. The Savior is dead.

Doubts arose and fear assailed. Hope came under question and the world waited to see what the outcome would be.

But 3 days later . . . early on Sunday morning, the question was settled! Easter came and with it an angel that rolled back the stone and sat upon it. Jesus died, but not for long! He got up from the grave just as He had promised! The good news echoed from that empty tomb outside the city of Jerusalem: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, for He is risen."

Our faith is not in a dead man. We "serve a risen Savior. He's in the world today. I know that He is living whatever men may say. I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him He's always near. He lives, He lives. Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives. He lives. Salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart."

What a difference the resurrection makes! Without it our faith is without substance, our message has no good news, sin still reigns, and death wins in the end. But because Jesus lives, we have a message to proclaim, power to live in victory, and something to look forward to after this life is over. Faith and hope are ours because death didn't win at the cross . . . Jesus did!

We celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ who died and was buried is back from the grave alive never to die again. The apparent tragedy of the cross quickly vanished in the awesome triumph of the resurrection.

His victory is now our victory. He won so we can win.

Let's celebrate the resurrection . . . not just one day in April, but every Sunday!

"Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!"

*Pastor Randy*