

Sermon ~ Sunday, April 4, 2021 by Pastor D. Benoit

Text: Matthew 28: 20b "...I AM with you alway..."

John 20: 19, 20 (Please Read All)

Title: "JESUS' Presence! (2)"

JUST TO KNOW THAT **JESUS is PRESENCE**, has and is *Helping ME!!!* (Please excuse my shouting!)

2021, April 4, its Easter Sunday morning, it is Resurrection Morning, it is my wife, Gayla' birthday! Though the *circumstances* of **GOD'S Permissive Will** – COVID-19, has you *there* and I (*we*) *here*, we have this *Assurance*, *hupostasis* (hoop-os'-tas-is), 'living with substance' ... That, **JESUS is Alive** and *here* with us!!!

When **JESUS** sent **HIS disciples** out, **HE** gave them this *promise*: "**I AM** with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28: 20) *Literally*, the word "alway" means "*all the days*." **JESUS** did not simply say "alway," but "*all the days*." That is, '*all the various activities*,' the *good* and *bad* circumstances surrounding us, the varied responsibilities we have through the course of our days, the storm clouds, and the sunshine. No matter what happens to us today, **JESUS** promised, to **BE** with us, to *walk* beside us, to *strengthen* us, to **LOVE** us, to fill our *Faith's in GOD* by **HIMSELF**, by **HIS Presence!**

The text, John 20: 19, 20, "Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came **JESUS**, and *stood* in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when **HE** had so said, **HE** showed unto them **HIS** hands and **HIS** side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw **The LORD.**"

Since, not *if*, Easter Sunday morning means "ALL in All" to every **CHRISTian** and to those who will become, see with me, How **JESUS** came!

This morning, **HE** "*stood* in the midst (middle) of them." **JESUS** *after* (Bethlehem' birth, Nazareth' hometown rejections, the dusty roads of Palestine *ministries*, *miracles*, *signs*, and *wonders*, on other's behalf and yet, nowhere to lay **HIS** own Head). *After*, Calvary' *crucifixion*, *burial* in a borrowed Tomb, and three days later, **GOD** declaring in Eternity timeless foreverness, "**THAT'S ENOUGH**," **HE** *raised* **JESUS** from the dead, and now, **HE** "*stood* in the midst (middle) of them."

JESUS *stood*... suddenly *stood*, where they (the disciples) had seen no one *stand*. **JESUS** did not flash across the room like some flash of lightening, but "*stood*" in a **Position of AUTHORITY**, as though **HE** meant to tarry awhile. **HE** "*stood*" as **The TEACHER** of *teachers* ought; as **The MASTER/Ruler** of all things ought; Oh, the 'son of thunder—James and John were in the room', *bad* Peter was in the room, Simon the Zealous was in the room... BUT **JESUS** "*stood* in the midst (middle) of them." Not one of the disciples is in the middle of the family circle of 'the redeemed.' **JESUS** *alone* is there, the *center* of all their hearts. The *Center* and **RULER of The CHURCH!** [Oh, I'm preaching to you by letter, this morning. I'm not *there* and you are not *here*, BUT **JESUS, HE** "*stood* in the midst (middle) of them." **HE is PRESENT!!!**]

JESUS speaks, and **HIS WORDS** is, "Peace be unto you." *Three times HE* said these **WORDS** this morning... (John 20: 19, 21, 26) We may not be able to tell one another why we feel what we feel; what we are feeling right now, *BUT to know JESUS is Present* and to hear **HIM** say, "Peace be unto you," *quiets* my soul! These **WORDS**, *tells us*, that **JESUS LOVES us now**, and, before the foundations of this world; *it tells us*, that our *Names* are engrave upon **HIS Hands**; *it tells us HE* bought our *Redemption* with **HIS Precious Blood**; *it tells us* we are *dear* and *near* to **HIM** and that *where* we are, **HE** is *here* with us! We can tell our *cares* to leave now, for our **JOY** has returned! Our *longings* are satisfied, and our *desires* can fall to sleep on **HIS Bosom**, since **JESUS is Present**. No more *warring* in the camp, no more *mourning* over sorrows, "the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our hearts."

Next, **JESUS** showed **HIMSELF** to **HIS** disciples. NOT some 'new thought,' some 'philosophic discovery,' some 'deep doctrine,' some profound mystery,' **BUT HIMSELF!** **JESUS** spoke **HIMSELF!** **JESUS** revealed **HIMSELF!** They (disciples) saw **JESUS**, **HIMSELF!** Now **HE** stood in the midst (middle) of them, as "**The Firstborn** from The Dead." **HE** showed them—**HIS Hands**, **HIS Feet** and **HIS Side**. *Ensigns of Passion!* ["Wounded for me, wounded for me, wounded for me, **HE** was wounded for me. Gone my transgressions and now I am free, All because **JESUS** was wounded for me."] [*See HIM saints of GOD! See HIM, sinners who would become saints of GOD! Don't be parrots of Thomas, witness for yourself, "My LORD, and my GOD!*"] Those sacred scars of **JESUS** are our tokens of *sin(s) forgiven*, *punishments* borne by our **SUBSTITUTE**, and *freedom/emancipation* from *slavery to sin*.
"O, how I love **JESUS!** O, how I love **JESUS!** O, how I love **JESUS**, Because **HE** first loved me!"

When **JESUS** showed **HIMSELF**, **HE** showed us **The SCRIPTURES!** Everything **The BIBLE** said, says, about **HIM is True!** What is said in the *Dark* to one, is the same in the *Light* to another. And this involves a *responsibility* to all who *see HIM* and *read* of **HIM!**
O, you may *read* many Books and come away with *seasons* of sweetness/delights, but once the *season* passes, the *drought* of bitterness/gloom are sure to come! **BUT when JESUS is seen** and *read* in **The SCRIPTURES**, **JESUS** loosen *the seven seals* thereof and *with HIS Fingers*, **HE Lights** up every line, and bids us to *look*, through the '*holes* in **HIS Hands**, the *holes* in **HIS Feet**, the hole in **HIS Side**, and says, **I promised, "...I AM with you alway..."**

I promised to be with you "*all the days.*" **I promised**, **The WORD of LIFE**, "**I AM, The Way, The Truth and The Life.**" **I promised**, "**The Eternal LOGOS, The True WORD of GOD!**"

JESUS' Presence makes us forget all our *fears!* **JESUS' Presence** makes us forget *fearing* what the Jews and every other *fear* that *distresses* us! O, we may have been affrighted at first, thinking, "*we see some spirit,*" "*we are losing our minds,*" "*am I dreaming,*" **BUT** no, it is **JESUS**, *standing* in our midst, as **The GOOD SHEPHERD** with **HIS** sheep all about **HIM**.
We are at Home... Like the Wise man said,

"Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine
unto those that be of heavy hearts. Let him drink,
and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more." (Proverbs 31: 6, 7)

The LOVE of JESUS is that blessed strong drink; **Presence** is the wine whereof if a man shall drink, he shall forget his misery and shall remember his sorrow no more.

We are at Home...

This world is not my Home, I'm just passing though,
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue,
The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door,
And I, can't feel at Home, in this world anymore!

O **LORD**, you know I have no **FRIEND** like **YOU**,
If Heaven's not my Home, then **LORD** what will I do?
The Angels beckon me from Heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at Home in this world anymore!

They're all expecting me and that's one thing I know,
My **SAVIOR** pardoned me and now I onward go.
I know **HE'LL** take me through though I am weak and poor,
And I can't feel at Home in this world anymore!

O **LORD**, you know I have no **FRIEND** like **YOU**,
If Heaven's not my Home, then **LORD** what will I do?
The Angels beckon me from Heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at Home in this world anymore!

Just up in Glory Land we'll live Eternally,
The Saints on every hand are shouting Victory.
Their songs of sweetest Praise drifts back from Heaven's shore,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore!

O **LORD**, you know I have no **FRIEND** like **YOU**,
If Heaven's not my Home, then **LORD** what will I do?
The Angels beckon me from Heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at Home in this world anymore!