

Easter Sun.

Romans 6:1-11

Phil. 3:7-11

Patet - (Guth. - Bapt. Service) March 29, 1959

Intro. Share X's Res. as we share his death
willing to die
" to let go of old.
unique death of f. X.

I. To die to the demand to be served, petted, pampered.

Jesus
marriage
Henry with Crane

II. To die to the claims we have on the future.

no guarantee
material & religious acts
disciples at last supper.

III. To die physically -

no option
surrender in thanks - Jesus
life & death - gift & grace.

Conclusion
season of Lent - Jesus
if we, too, die - raised
S - Jesus & death - eternal life -
to die is to be delivered & raised up.

Resurrection except we also share in

as we are willing to die. We can

let go of the old. Before Resurrection

breath. It means to take upon oneself

upon ourselves the unique death of Jesus

the demand to be served and petted and pampered

and babyed. Claudine recently told

me out that the cause of many unhappy

marriages. I suspect that these are both

divorce court and those that end in endless

struggled, to have his own way, to be

man say that one of the secrets to his

was that he and his wife tried to outdo each other in unselfishness.

They tried to see how much they could give one another not how much they could get.

They had a delightful life year after year after year. If we would have new life,

we must die to our demand to be served and petted and pampered.

If we would be resurrected, we must also die to the claims we have on the future.

~~We must trust God. Men have devised many ways of trying~~ ^{There is no} to guarantee the kind of

future ^{we} ~~they~~ would like to have. (Some acquire stocks and bond. Some build houses and buy real estate. Some go to church and pray. Now, none of these are evil in themselves.

I would like to do all of them. But if we depend upon these for future happiness and security, we are likely to be disappointed.) In our churches we hear many words

said about those who try to make the future safe by piling up material goods, ~~but~~ ^{we must also speak a} ~~hear fewer words~~ about those who try to buy eternity insurance by going to church

or performing some religious act. Jesus had something to say about the fool who tore

There is no hope of sharing in Christ's resurrection except we also share in his death. We can only know the Resurrection as we are willing to die. We can only receive new life when we are willing to let go of the old. Before Resurrection comes death. This means more than ceasing to breath. It means to take upon oneself the unique death of Jesus the Christ.

What does it mean for us to die; to take upon ourselves the unique death of Jesus Christ?

It means, among other things, to die to the demand to be served and petted and pampered. Jesus Christ was not a man who had to be coddled and babyed. Claudine recently told me of reading an article in which it was pointed out that the cause of many unhappy marriages is that each partner wants to be served. I suspect that these are both some of the unhappy marriages that end in the divorce court and those that end in endless years of boredom. Each partner wants to be privileged, to have his own way, to be waited on and pampered. I once heard a famous man say that one of the secrets to his happy homelife was that he and his wife tried to outdo each other in unselfishness.

They tried to see how much they could give one another not how much they could get. They had a delightful life year after year after year. If we would have new life, we must die to our demand to be served and petted and pampered.

If we would be resurrected, we must also die to the claims we have on the future. ~~We must trust God. Men have devised many ways of trying to guarantee the kind of~~ ^{There is no} future ^{we} ~~they~~ would like to have. (Some acquire stocks and bond. Some build houses and buy real estate. Some go to church and pray. Now, none of these are evil in themselves. I would like to do all of them. But if we depend upon these for future happiness and security, we are likely to be disappointed.) In our churches we hear many words said about those who try to make the future safe by piling up material goods, ~~but we~~ ^{must also speak a} ~~hear fewer~~ words about those who try to buy eternity insurance by going to church or performing some religious act. Jesus ~~had~~ ^{had} something to say about the fool who tore

down his barns to build bigger barns. But he had even harsher words for those so-called religious persons who used their religion as a means of acquiring God's favor, so that God would be nice to them. It is idolatry and pagan to think that God bargains to give us anything if we are righteous.

Do you remember reading about the Last Supper as recorded in the Gospel of Luke? The disciples had an argument about which of them would be greatest in the kingdom. Jesus made it plain that only the servants, only those who had given up any claim to greatness would be given the Kingdom. The Resurrected life is given to those who are willing to die to all claims on the future.

And then we must be willing to die in the physical sense of the word. No man has the option of whether he will die or not. But each of us must decide how we will meet death. To surrender our bodies back to God in thankfulness is to die as ~~did~~ Jesus Christ.

We were not asked whether we wanted to be given life. It was a gift, a manifestation of God's grace. And we shall not be asked if we want to be given death. This, too, is a gift, a manifestation of God's grace. Those who trust God through his revelation in Jesus Christ, those who are willing to die, will be ~~given~~ raised from the dead in new life.

We have just come through the season of Lent and the Week called Holy Week in which we again understand what it meant for Jesus the Christ to die to the demand to be served, to die to any claim he might have on the future, to give up his physical life. By faith in him we trust that if we too, are willing to die, we shall be raised from the dead by God, our Father.

Who is our God? He is the one who has walked into the jaws of death itself and come out master. To trust this God is to have eternal life. To die before this God is to here and now be delivered from the power of death and be raised up to walk in newness of life.