



COPTIC ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF THE SOUTHERN UNITED STATES

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“So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great JOY, and ran to bring His disciples word” (Mt 28:8).

My Beloved Youth,

The peace and JOY of the Feast of the Resurrection be with you all.

How can we find JOY in the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ?

First we need to understand the significance and true meaning of our Lord Jesus Christ's death. Since the time of our birth, we were bond by sin for “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me” (Ps 51:5). Our freedom was lost and we were sentenced to death. “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned” (Rom 5:12).

“The wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23); yet our Lord Jesus Christ did not lose hope in mankind and “...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).

St. Ambrose of Milan c. 397 said “We contracted heavy debts by our sins, so that we lost freedom and became liable. Each sin put us in greater debt to Satan's hold over us, so that the accumulation of sins became Satan's “wealth.” But then the Lord Jesus came; He offered His own death for the death of all; He shed His blood for the blood of all. So we have changed our creditor.”

The JOY lies in the freedom of bondage that we inherited from our Lord Jesus Christ's death. “Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage” (Gal 5:1).

The JOY lies in the reconciliation with our Lord. “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation” (Rom 5:10-11).

The JOY lies in the newness we attained through His death. “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)” (Eph 2:4-5).

The JOY lies in the salvation we received. “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jn 14:6).

This issue of Mighty Arrows highlights the JOY of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my beloved youth, I ask you to embrace this JOY and to “put on the armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Eph 6:11) as you live your renewed life in Him.

God bless you,

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