

The Sign of the Resurrection

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above....
Colossians 3.2

Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has been raised, as He said. Matthew 28.5-6

The angel told the two Mary's who had come to see the tomb that Jesus had been raised from the dead! With *fear and great joy*, the women ran to tell the other disciples when Jesus suddenly appeared to them. They _____, and they believed! The whole world knows that Christians are celebrating the resurrection today, but do they see, and do they believe?

God can use empty tombs and intellectual arguments as a witness to bring people to faith in a crucified and risen Christ, there can be no question about that. The Apostle Paul, however, wrote of _____ witness to the resurrected Lord

Beyond empty tombs and intellectual arguments, this is our greatest witness to our crucified and risen Christ, a _____ that has been raised with Christ. In other words, our witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ is authenticated by living His life. Or, as I have been saying for a while, now, our most effective witness to Christ is for the messenger to be the Message!

Easter is to move **from** beyond the affirmation of the empty tomb _____ our lives.

To seek things above is nothing more than to have a _____ that is oriented to Christ, a heart that seeks the things of Christ.

When we _____ our minds on things above, we are setting our minds on the mind of Christ, so that we may think clearly, and act lovingly toward the creation and all that is part of the creation.

The resurrection of Christ brings the heavenly rule, "the things above," into the earthy rule, the things below, for we read Christ came to _____ "all things, whether on earth or in heaven by making peace through His blood shed on the Cross." (Colossians 1.20)

Christ is risen! When we affirm this great historical fact, we are also affirming that we are risen with Him, now living the life He lived. The early disciples had an empty tomb, they saw and they believed. The _____ God gives to the world today is the fact that He is risen in me, in you! The messenger of the risen Christ is to be the Message, so that the world can see, and believe!