

## **April 13, 2020 ~Prayerful Thoughts on Easter Monday~**

**“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” Colossians 3:1-2**

Dear God, you are the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. You used someone or something to get our attention; perhaps long ago, perhaps in the past few years, or perhaps quite recently in the circumstances of sheltering from exposure to this dreadful virus. Our faith grew and continues growing because you wanted to draw us close. You wanted us to hear and believe your promise. You wanted to call us your own.

We came to believe and asked for salvation “by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone” given to us by you alone. We thank you, God for wanting us, for wooing us, and for welcoming us as your own children. We are, everyday, part of your plan. You demonstrate what you can do with us and for us again and again, You protect us, guide us through the Holy Spirit given us, and lavish love and blessings on us. We acknowledge with gratitude that successes and triumphs over difficulties are not because of our doing, but rather because of your doing in us, with us, and for us.

You are our Omniscient God. You know our thoughts, our weaknesses, and our self made plans. You know how we are easily distracted by the world and wander off depending on people, pride, and petty stuff to make us feel good. You surely know how we get into our own corners and live our lives looking after ourselves because the world tells us that’s where we find happiness. It’s self serving happiness. The world may pretend to love us and promise us happiness, but the world and worldly people always abandon us when finished with us.

Today, [this Monday](#) after Easter, we celebrate knowing that evil will not triumph over you or your children, God, You have the right answers to our questions and best resolutions for our struggles. You have provided even more than we need for our life journeys. You help us find the right traveling companions, and your wisdom and power is the fuel for the human spirit in each of us, You have the roadmap to our final destination. We’re grateful for your guidance and ask for trusting perseverance to wait on your timing. Keep us focused so we ignore the world’s distractions and stick to your plan,

Help us remember yesterday’s resurrection celebration whenever the world tempts us with short term happiness. Holy Spirit, please remind us that we have been raised with Christ, and he is waiting on us at God’s right hand even now, to welcome us into his kingdom. Give us eyes to see and minds to discern that earthly things may give us temporary happiness, but when we set our minds on things above, you will help us find joy and blessedness that doesn’t leave us, but seems to multiply, and grow, and spill over from us to bless your other children.

We are humbled that, even when we turn away from you, God, you patiently wait on us to realize your promises will be kept, no matter what. Father, you are surely at work even now when coronavirus suffering and death overwhelms all your people. When fearfulness, hopelessness, and loneliness threaten our happiness, we need only come crawl up into your lap. When the long term consequences of nationwide quarantine, unstable economy, loss of what we once had, and unemployment seem more than we can ever overcome, help us remember that according to you plan, our Lord Jesus overcame his own death. We have been raised with Christ, and with you, Almighty God, we can overcome the circumstances of this world that seem impossible, right now, to overcome.

Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son trusted you with his life. In Your Son's Name, we ask that you will help us choose to live these days, and all the days of our lives in this world, seeking you above all else. Amen