

Easter Sunday

The cross of Christ has the power to transform the events of your life, and to set those events in proper perspective. All the days of your life are in darkness unless they are illuminated by the light of the cross. The things that happen to you have no real, lasting meaning unless these things are transformed by the presence of Christ.

Take, for example, the death of a loved one. If there is no Christ and no cross and no empty tomb, then the death of a dear one is a cause for despair and fear. But if by faith in Jesus that death is viewed in light of the cross and is given a heavenly perspective, it no longer is a cause for despair. There is life and there is hope, because Jesus is there.

Or take, for example, the event of your baptism. It is Christ and His Word and promise that give meaning to your baptism. If Christ did not die and rise again, if Christ is removed from baptism, then your baptism simply becomes an empty external form. But the presence of Christ and His Word, the cross and the empty tomb, give to baptism its significance as an instrument of God's grace in your life.

All the events of your life are given a heavenly perspective by faith in Jesus. Failure of your business will be seen in proper perspective only if it is viewed in light of Christ and the cross. You can deal properly with peer pressure only when you see your relationship to your peers in light of Christ and the cross. Sorrow and suffering and disappointments are put in their proper perspective and are sanctified for you only by the cross. There is meaning and purpose and hope because of Jesus.

Jesus is present in your life as you receive Him by faith, and His presence transforms your life. Where Jesus is, 'tis heaven there.

Philip Haugen