

The Empire Will Not Win!

God's solution to counter the empire's narrative of sin and death is the Spirit of God.

There is the law of sin and death.

There is the law of Spirit and life.

NRSV **Roman 8:9** But you are not in the flesh; you are in **the Spirit**, since **the Spirit of God** dwells in you. Anyone who does not have **the Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if **Christ** is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, **the Spirit is life** because of righteousness. ¹¹ If **the Spirit of him** who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who **raised Christ** from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through **his Spirit** that dwells in you.

- The Spirit raised up Jesus from the dead.
- The same Spirit raises us out of death.

I

The Comforter is Jesus's solution to loss, mourning, and grief.

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Mourning is a part of the human journey.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 A time to be **born**, and a time to **die**;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

Ecclesiastes 3:4 A time to **weep**, and a time to **laugh**;
a time to **mourn**, and a time to dance;

The Comforter deals with various levels of grief.

- Delayed grief
- Unprocessed grief
- Moving beyond grief

KJV **John 14:18** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

The Comforter is for our personal grief.

The Comforter is for our communal grief.

The seven stages of grief

- Shock and denial. This is a state of disbelief and numbed feelings.
- Pain and guilt. ...
- Anger and bargaining. ...
- Depression. ...
- The upward turn. ...
- Reconstruction and working through. ...
- Acceptance and hope.

Loss is an event; however, grief is a journey.

The empire's grief will not win!

II

The Comforter is the Holy Ghost.

KJV **John 14:26** But the **Comforter**, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost is a Spirit of truth.

KJV **John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even **the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The lie of a fallen world is “death is the end” and “death is final.”

The empire’s lie will not win!

III

The Comforter reenforces Passover.

^{NRSV} **Roman 8:35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will **hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?** ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake **we are being killed** all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

This is the Exodus narrative.

This is the Passover narrative.

This is the new creation of reality.

Passover declares the empire will not win.

^{KJV} **Romans 8:37** No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ **For I am convinced that neither death,** nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, **nor depth,** nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us **from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Call the roll...Hebrew 11

The empire’s hopelessness will not win!

Nehemiah Action, Celeste Center at the State Fair Grounds, Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 6:30pm (In person only)

Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Resurrection Weekend – April 16 – 17, 2022
9:30 a.m.