

DOCTRINE FOR THE YOUNG

THE RESURRECTED LORD

by the Rev. B. David Holm

The age-old Easter message causes us to rejoice in heart. For it is a message of victory – victory over hell and death, victory over the powers of darkness, victory over evil and all the burdens that evil places upon mankind. Easter is the message of salvation and redemption. It is the sacred remembrance of the Lord’s resurrection. On Easter our minds and hearts rest upon the Risen Lord and what He means in our lives. “He is not here; for He is risen, as He said” (Matt. 28:6).

Thus Easter is a day of hope and of promise of salvation. It is a day of joyful thanksgiving and worship—thanksgiving for hell being conquered and worship of the Divine Human of God glorified. It is a day of opening our hearts to our Lord and Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ who overcame death and hell for our salvation and redemption. This is the Easter message to all New Churchmen.

Almighty God descended into the world and took on our human nature, so He might show Himself to us. At the same time, He faced all of hell, as one of us, and was tempted. The Lord assumed a human not to be overcome but to conquer. Thus in every temptation, terrible as they were, the Lord was victorious. He overcame the hells and all evil from the hells. He broke their overwhelming power over mankind.

But the Lord did more than overcome the powers of evil. For as He conquered in each temptation, something of the Mary human (the finite human He put on by birth) was put off. He put off the Mary human. In its place He put on the Divine Human. The putting off of the Mary human and putting on of the Divine Human was a very gradual process. It took place throughout the Lord’s life on earth. He glorified His human nature and made it one with His Divine life.

The Lord Jesus Christ was glorified even as to the flesh and bones. He rose from the dead like no other man. The Lord took on the Divine Natural degree, so that He could be present with all men for all time. He had become a Divinely Human God, a visible God whom we can worship and serve.

This is the Easter message. God is Divine Man, knowable, visible, lovable, and obeyable. We are to learn this message well and pass it on to our children. For it is the precious heritage of the New Church.

This presence of the Divine in the natural by means of the Divine Human, is clearly taught in the twenty-fourth chapter of Luke:

“Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones as ye see Me have.”

Once we see the Lord in His Divine Nature, as revealed in the Writings, our minds will be opened to see the purpose of His coming into the world, the purpose of His temptations, and victories over hell. We will see the necessity of His passion on the cross and of His wondrous resurrection as to His whole Body.

We will see that all this was done that our minds might be freed from evil and be conjoined with the Glorified Lord who is present in ultimates. And if we see this, then our understanding can be opened further to see that all the good and truth we bring into our lives are directly from the Glorified Lord, the Divinely Human and Natural God of heaven and earth, our Lord and Savior, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ who is both God and Man.

Texts: Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39