

The VINE

St. George & St. Shenouda Coptic Orthodox Church Bulletin

June 2013

St. Gregory Nazianzen *On The Resurrection*

Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him; today I am made alive with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I am raised up with Him. Let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us ... ourselves, the possession most precious to God and most proper. Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become Divine for His sake, since for us He became Man. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better. He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich. He accepted the form of a servant that we might win back our freedom. He came down that we might be lifted up. He was tempted that through Him we might conquer. He was dishonored that He might glorify us. He died that He might save us. He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were thrown down through the fall of sin.



On The Resurrection, cont...

Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself a Ransom and Reconciliation for us. We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed. We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him. We were glorified with Him because we rose again with Him. A few drops of Blood recreate the whole of creation!^a

Contemplation Verse

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed – in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

*"O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?"*

-1 Corinthians 15:50-55

^aSt. Gregory Nazianzen.. Oration 45. Second Paschal Oration. Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers. Series 2. Vol 7.

Book Review

***BOUNDARIES IN DATING:
HOW HEALTHY CHOICES
GROW HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS.***

**BY: HENRY CLOUD
ISBN-10: 0310200342**

Boundaries in Dating is really a book about growing into a person that can truly love like Christ loved. It will not only help you when you are seeking the one God has prepared for you, but will help you in all relationships, as a friend, or parent or sibling. Read this book, and you will be empowered to take ownership of your faults and wrong ways of thinking, and become capable of truly helping another person grow. "Boundaries" are ways to practically prevent struggles caused by some problem in the areas of freedom and responsibility. Everyone is immature and sinful in some way, but we cannot truly love each other until we and the other individual are completely free to make their own choices, and take full responsibility for their behaviors. You will realize how little you understand yourself and others when you read this book, and you will probably want to reread it over and over again.

The Resurrection is a Wonderful Meeting
H.H. Pope Shenouda III^b

The resurrection is a wonderful meeting between two united friends who have lived together their whole life since their birth and even before it, during pregnancy in their mothers' wombs. They never separated even for one moment; They are: the body and the spirit. Each of them has a special nature; the body is earthly and the spirit is celestial. They have united in one nature-the human nature. You cannot separate one from the other and say "This is the body and that is the spirit." They have lived together in an admirable unity. The body expresses all the sensations and feelings of the spirit. If the spirit becomes glad the body will smile and rejoice. If it becomes sad, sorrow will appear in the eyes. After a long life they will separate from one another because of death but in the end they will meet each other in the resurrection. After a long separation they will unite again. I wonder!! How will the sensations of the spirit be when it meets the body -the life long partner after hundreds and may be thousands of years as Adam, Noah and Abraham had done before!?!? The spirit meets the body after seeing the body change into a handful of dust. Then returns more radiant than before, without any blemish. Even the faults, stuck to the body in the past, disappear. Yes, it is raised without defects because wrong and evil deeds do not agree with eternal paradise. The body returns more friendly. It never disagrees with the spirit in the other world for it is raised a spiritual body.

The second wonderful meeting in the resurrection is a meeting of nations and races of the whole history. It will be a general resurrection since the days of Adam. All nations and races that lived through generations and centuries, with their different languages, features and lineaments, with all their heroes and leaders will meet together and try to be acquainted and understand each other. Undoubtedly, they will do so because there will be one language the language of the spirit or that of the angels. How wonderful this meeting will be!! It will be the greatest of all stories and the strangest narrative of long epochs. The best of all will be the procession of the triumphant and victorious people who struggled during their life on earth, then conquered and supported truth and morals. They will meet together and everyone has a story related by generations... then the world will become once more one nation as it had been before parting and dispersion. I wonder!! how will the meeting of the nations which had fought with each other

^bH.H.Pope Shenouda III. Contemplation on the Resurrection.

Learn Coptic

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Disciple/Student

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We Believe

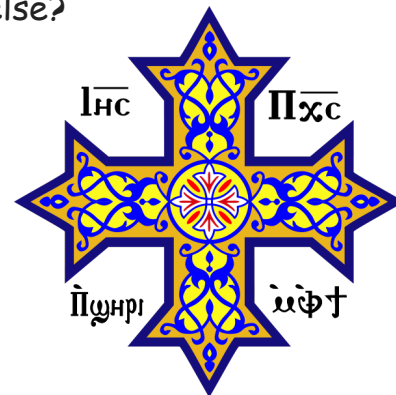
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To overthrow

The Resurrection is a Wonderful Meeting, cont

be? Will the causes that forced them to wage wars against each other seem insignificant?

The third marvelous meeting is that of the human beings with the angels who are made of a nature more eminent than ours. Meeting with them will be one of eternity's happy enjoyment.

But the most wonderful meeting with the Lord will surpass any other meeting in its eminence. Our meeting with God, blessed is His name, will be the eternal paradise for there will be no paradisiacal life without Him. Now my pen stops in silent submissiveness because I am before a scene which words fail to describe or interpret. It is above the standard of any language to express or any intelligence to imagine. Thus, the resurrection is a strange and wonderful meeting... and what else?



Questions? Concerns? Comments?
Please email us at TheVineNJ@gmail.com