

Well Said . . .

When you think about it, the quality of the church's life together is evidence for the truthfulness of the resurrection. The most eloquent testimony to the reality of the resurrection is not an empty tomb or a well-orchestrated pageant on Easter Sunday but rather a group of people whose life together is so radically different, so completely changed from the way the world builds a community, that there can be no explanation other than that something decisive has happened in history. The tough task of interpreting the reality of a truth like the resurrection is not so much the scientific or historical, "How could a thing like that happen?" but the ecclesiastical and communal, "Why don't you people look more resurrected?"

--William Willimon

A man with God is always in the majority.

--John Knox

Here is the mystery, the secret, one might almost say the cunning, of the deep love of God: that it is bound to draw on to itself the hatred and pain and shame and anger and bitterness and rejection of the world, but to draw all those things on to itself is precisely the means, chosen from all eternity by the generous, loving God, by which to rid His world of the evils which have resulted from human abuse of God-given freedom.

The world, and the rulers of the world, had you in their grip. But Jesus took that bondage upon Himself: it is all there in the charge that was nailed over the cross...Jesus took it on himself: and, being the one person who had never submitted to the rulers of this world, who had lived as a free human being, obedient to God, He beat them at their own game. He made a public example of them; God, in Christ, celebrated His triumph over the prince of the world.

The cross is not a defeat but a victory. It's the dramatic reassertion that God's love is sovereign, that the rulers of the world don't have the last word, that the kingdom of God has defeated the kingdom of Satan, that the kingdoms of the world, now become, in principle, the kingdom of our God, and of His Messiah and he shall reign forever and ever and ever!

--N.T. Wright

"In eternity this world will be like Troy, I believe, and all that has passed here will be the epic of the universe, the ballad they sing in the streets."

--Marilynne Robinson

In the garden of our Savior, no flower grows unseen;
His kindness rains like water on every humble seed.
No simple act of mercy escapes His watchful eye —
for there is One who loves me:
His hand is over mine.

Oh, the deeds forgotten; oh, the works unseen,
every drink of water flowing graciously,
every tender mercy, You're making glorious.
This You have asked us: Do little things with great
love, little things with great love.

--Audrey Assad & Isaac Wardell

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.

--Jim Elliot

With every morn my life afresh must break
The crust of self, gathered about me fresh;
That Your wind-spirit may rush in and shake
The darkness out of me, and rend the mesh

The spider-devils spin out of the flesh-
Eager to net the soul before it wake,
That it may slumberous lie, and listen to the
snake.

--George MacDonald

We do not serve God to become more like Christ—we become more like Christ to be more useful to God.

--Peter Bauer