

Easter 2016! **"How Then, Will We Live?"**

"Is it anything, really, that the One who ascended into Heaven also *first descended into the lower parts of the earth?*" –**Eph 4.9**

There is a Deep Valley Between the Cross and the Tomb!

"He was numbered with the transgressors and He bore the sins of many and made intercession for the transgressors." –**Isaiah 53.12** "Now is the judgment of this world, *now will the ruler of the darkness of this world be cast out.* If I am lifted up from the earth *I will draw all men unto Me.*" –**John 12.31,32** "And you, being dead in your sins, has He now quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses..." –**Colossians 2.13** "Blotting out the record of the sins that stood against you, removing the condemning power of the law, by nailing it to His Cross." –**v14** "And having spoiled principalities, He made a public show of their defeat, triumphing over them by the Cross." –**v15**

Between the Cross where He died and the Tomb that couldn't hold Him, Jesus...

Descended into a very deep place where sinners; the lost and the blessed alike, were being held "captive..."

Hades/Hado: the all-receiving place! Different from the region of the doomed!

"Quickened by the Spirit, Jesus went and preached unto the spirits in prison..." –1Peter 3.18,19

Their judgment withheld because there was no true answer for sin! Sacrifices were temporary relief... "But in those sacrifices there is (only) a remembrance made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sin!" **Heb 10.3,4**

Mankind was helpless and hopeless! Slaves to sin, to unrighteousness... But then Jesus paid the price! His blood so precious, it was enough to satisfy the debt of sin! His life so perfect, death couldn't hold Him!

"And the One who lived and died, and now is alive forevermore... He holds the keys of death and hades." –**Revelation 1.18**

"When He ascended on high, He led a multitude of captives and left behind gifts for mankind." –**Ephesians 4.8**

And it's why we preach... The power of sin has been broken! You are indebted to your flesh no longer! The one who the Son has set free is truly free to live for Him! And ask, "So how will you live?"

Between the Cross where He died and the Tomb that couldn't hold Him... Jesus crossed a deep valley to bring us new life...

How then, will we live?

Serving the world in love...
Praying thru the hard times of life...
Giving forgiveness without satisfaction...
Obeying despite the suffering...
Carrying the burdens of those weaker...
Fulfilling the mission so others may live!