

Joyful in Hope – 22 – April 11, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."
Romans 12:9

Saturday - Day Seven of Passion Week - Sabbath

Jesus' body lay in its tomb, where it was guarded by Roman soldiers throughout the day on Saturday, which was the Sabbath. When the Sabbath ended at 6 p.m., Christ's body was ceremonially treated for burial with spices purchased by Nicodemus:

"He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth." (John 19: 39-40, NLT)

Nicodemus, like Joseph of Arimathea, was a member of the Sanhedrin, the court that had condemned Jesus Christ to death. For a time, both men had lived as secret followers of Jesus, afraid to make a public profession of faith because of their prominent positions in the Jewish community.

Similarly, both were deeply affected by Christ's death. They boldly came out of hiding, risking their reputations and their lives because they had come to realize that Jesus was, indeed, the long-awaited Messiah. Together they cared for Jesus' body and prepared it for burial.

While his physical body lay in the tomb, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin by offering the perfect, spotless sacrifice. He conquered death, both spiritually and physically, securing our eternal salvation:

"For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God." (1 Peter 1:18-19, NLT)

Saturday's events are recorded in Matthew 27:62-66, Mark 16:1, Luke 23:56, and John 19:40.

Honoring Don, Supporting Janet



Due to the restrictions in place right now concerning public gatherings, and the concern over possible spread of the coronavirus, Viewing and Visitation for Don is very limited. It will be at the Gramer Funeral Home, on Main Street in Clawson, on Tuesday morning, April 14, from 10 AM - 12 PM. Only ten people will be allowed in the

funeral parlor at one time, so please keep your visits short, maintain social distancing, and wear appropriate protective gear (masks and glove). I know that your temptation will be to want to hug Janet and console her. We're asking that you restrain yourself from physical contact. A card or a note would be wonderful. Don will be laid to rest at Oakview Cemetery Tuesday afternoon. Family only are invited to attend.

Update on Phuong



Ron reports that Phuong is feeling better today. They want you to know how much they appreciate your prayers. The doctor told Ron yesterday that, if Phuong had not already been at the hospital preparing for surgery, she probably would not have made it more than a couple days, due to the internal bleeding. And even though they were not able to deal with the cancer in her liver yesterday, Ron is convinced that God was there with them, protecting and guiding. It was a Good Friday. They will talk with the oncologist tomorrow, praying for good news on Easter Sunday. It seems that the course of action now is to proceed with chemotherapy. Ron says, "I don't know if we'll have 10 months or 2 years, but it's far better than what could have happened yesterday." Please, keep praying!

Can't wait to be with you all tomorrow via **You Tube**, as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death. Any time after 10 AM, go to:

Heritage Church Clawson Resurrection

*There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God, for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.
Hebrews 4:9-10*