

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Wow, we have certainly had some warm weather in early March. Yes, we have had the kind of warm weather that can begin to cause a person to **“THINK SPRING”!!!**

Wow, we have not even reached April quite yet and there is a sense of **“SPRING IS IN the AIR”!!!**

Wow, as we move toward April and we come to the first day on the calendar for the month of April, we find a day which has been labeled **“APRIL FOOLS”** day!!!

Wow, wow, and wow again, while looking outside there is some brand new white **STUFF** coming down out of the sky. Now, you may correct me if I am wrong, but I believe that new white **STUFF** is called **SNOW**, but please say it is not **SO!!!**

Ah, all those **PRE-SEASON** jitters and **“ICE OUT”** or not, **“SPRING** has definitely not **“SPRUNG”!!!**

Well, it seems some of us have experienced just a bit of false **HOPE** with regards to **“SPRING”!!!**

We just recently came off the celebration of **EASTER** and **EASTER SUNDAY!!!** However, before what we today call **EASTER SUNDAY**, was a day we now refer to as **GOOD FRIDAY!!!**

When we reference **GOOD FRIDAY** we are making reference to the **CRUCIFIXION** of our Lord and Savior **JESUS CHRIST!!!** Clearly, the many people who followed **JESUS** and thought that he might be the **MESSIAH** were likely feeling a bit disillusioned by the **HOPE** they had experienced because of **JESUS!!!**

Indeed, Jesus had taught those who gathered to him with great wisdom and understanding. Indeed, Jesus had also demonstrated great love and compassion towards those who gathered around him seeking a new path. Indeed, Jesus had performed miracle after miracle before those who gathered around him. Often times, it was even the enemies of Jesus who acknowledged these miracles had been done. Is there any real wonder why those who followed Jesus had been sparked with a spirit of **HOPE???**

The difference between “Think Spring” and “Spring is in the Air” and the white “Stuff” coming down out of the sky, and a feeling of “False Hope” and **JESUS**, is found in the **“FALSE READING”** of **GOOD FRIDAY** as a realization of “False Hope” in **JESUS** as the **MESSIAH!!!**

Recall, the **EMPTY TOMB**; recall, Mary Magdalene and her personal encounter with **JESUS** following the **RESURRECTION**; recall, the disciples of Jesus behind locked doors and their personal encounter with **JESUS** following the **RESURRECTION**; and finally recall, a man who became famously known as the original “Doubting Thomas” and his personal encounter with **JESUS** following the **RESURRECTION**; now then, when it comes to **JESUS** the **MESSIAH** we find a sense of **HOPE** which **SPRINGS** forth when we open our hearts in **FAITH** to the wonder of **GOD’S LOVE** for us!!!

An **“APRIL FOOL”**, not when “Good Friday” is followed by “Easter Sunday” in the hearts, minds, and spirits of **GOD’S** children whose **HOPE SPRINGS** forth from the wonder of **GOD’S** gracious **LOVE!!!**

Love in Christ,

Pastor Dana