

GOD IS IN THE PROMOTION BUSINESS!
What Does Easter Mean to You? - 2/March 14, 2010/Mike Berry

"¹⁶ I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. ¹⁸ And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. ¹⁹ May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God. ²⁰ Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope. ²¹ May he be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages. Amen.
Ephesians 3:16-21

God loves you so much...

1. HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU A NEW IDENTITY!

a. You are a friend of God!

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you."
John 15:15

Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³² Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:31-32

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

Do you believe you're a friend of God?

b. You are the righteousness of God!

²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21

²³ And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.
James 2:23

⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ-- the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.
Philippians 3:8-9

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.
1 Corinthians 1:30

Do you believe you are the righteousness of God?

c. You are the hands and feet of God!

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Are you being an ambassador for Christ? Are you being His hands and feet?

2. HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU A NEW HEART!

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command. Ezekiel 36:26-27

Has God given you a new Heart?

3. HE WANTS TO GIVE YOU NEW DIRECTIONS AND A NEW DIRECTOR!

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Matthew 16:15-16

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. ¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:104-105

Who do you say Jesus is? Is he Lord of your life?

Action Step:

**As you journey to Easter, make time to take in God's Love
and to love him back by praying and studying His word.
Where has God promoted you, and where does he want to?**