

Today is what people traditionally call Easter – and what we as Jesus Followers would preferably call Resurrection Sunday.

Ephesians 1:7-12

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace^s which He lavished on us.

In the original Greek language that Ephesians was written in, the word for Redemption is apolytrosis (Ah – poe – loo – trow – cease) which means: liberation procured by the payment of a ransom.

We are redeemed – bought by Him – FREE

Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God's gift, Jesus Christ, is the only answer to true freedom in life. God sent Jesus to make a way for us to truly be free as was stated in **Isaiah 61:1** *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners;*

Through the birth, life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, God made a way for us to walk in Freedom.

- Freedom that goes beyond a surface “fix-it” of the “troublesome” areas of our lives.
- Freedom from our own self-destructive behavior.
- Freedom from the addictions that can distract or sideline us.
- Freedom for our selfishness that causes us to hurt and take advantage of others.
- Freedom from our self-reliant pride.
- Freedom from our regrets, guilt, and shame.
- Freedom from our fears, anxiety, and worry.
- Freedom from the ultimate consequence for living a life that is not aligned to God's ways through Jesus Christ.

When we become Born-Again, Jesus gives us the power to walk in Freedom.

If you are not a Jesus Follower yet, there is Freedom in Jesus waiting for you. If you are a Jesus Follower, there is Freedom in Jesus already available for you.

HALE PULE DISCUSSION QUESTION: What are some of the ways you've experienced Jesus healing your broken heart, bringing liberty and/or freedom into your life. If you are not a Jesus follower yet, what are some

areas of your life you would like to see healed or made free once you relinquish control of your life to him?

In all wisdom and insight⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

The resurrection of Jesus was a pivotal point in the “Kind Intention” of God towards us – a powerful expression of His great love and mercy.

1 Peter 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,⁴ to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,⁵ who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

It's often been said that mercy is not getting what we really deserve. For example, we do something blatantly wrong and we don't receive the full consequence of our actions, like if a police officer pulls you over for an obvious infraction but instead of a citation, they give you a warning. They are being merciful.

In these verses, we see a few practical benefits of His great Mercy through the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

- 1) A Living Hope
- 2) Eternal inheritance in heaven
- 3) Protection, power, faith, salvation (wholeness)

HALE PULE DISCUSSION QUESTION: How would you describe God being merciful to you in these things listed in 1 Peter 1:3-5. If you are not a Jesus Follower yet, what do you think His mercy would look like in your life in these areas if you became Born Again?

- A) A Living Hope**
- B) Eternal inheritance in heaven**
- C) Protection, power, faith, salvation (wholeness)**

This great Mercy is not based on our performance or “worthiness”, it is based on God’s love for us.

Titus 3:3-7 *For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, ⁵ He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

Ephesians 2:1-10 *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

His Abundant Mercy not only dissolves the debilitating power of our past, it transforms the reality of our present, and the ignites potential of our future.

As we talked about last week, we were created in Him to do the things He prepared in advance for us to do!

Allow the power of the resurrection of Jesus to unleash the power of His great Mercy in your life – it will change everything!

HALE PULE DISCUSSION QUESTION: How can you move forward in obedience to be the person the Father created you to be, “according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”?

Let’s pray...E Pule Kakou

ADDITIONAL HALE PULE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) What are you most thankful for this Easter/Resurrection Season

2) Jesus was sent *to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners*. When you have a quiet moment today, take some time to think about:

What areas of broken heartedness you may have that you would like Jesus to bring healing?

What areas of captivity or bondage (addictions, bad habits, etc.) do you have in your life that you would like Jesus to bring liberty?

What areas of your life would you like Jesus to bring freedom?

Write them down and pray daily for His help, strength, and wisdom in those areas.

If you have a trusted friend who is a Jesus Follower, consider asking them to join you in prayer for these areas.

If you have never relinquished control of your life to Jesus and are ready to allow Him to run your life, call out to God and let Him know that you want to submit your life to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sin. Ask Him for the power to live according to His plan and purpose for your life. Reach out to a trusted friend who is a Jesus Follower and let them know about your desire to live for Jesus and ask them to help you get started in a new life in Him.

3) What would you like specific prayer for this week? If you are in a small group setting going over this message, ask the group members to pray for you this week. If you are watching this message by yourself send you prayer requests to KalaheoMishOffice@gmail.com and put Prayer Request in the subject.

For personal reflection on this message you can go to our website and download a G.R.O.W.T.H. Sheet that you can use to meditate and explore some of the Scriptures mentioned in today's message.

<https://www.kalaheomissionary.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/G.R.O.W.T.H.-SHEET-Fill-in.pdf>

Here are some trusted websites that can help you find out more about being born again:

<https://peacewithgod.net>

<https://billygraham.org/story/how-to-be-born-again/>