

With activities cancelled, an April calendar wasn't printed. However, keep in mind the following information:

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## He Is Risen! And Now . . .

One of the most glorious sections in all of Scripture is found in 1 Corinthians 15 where we find the words of St. Paul as he expounds on Christ's crucifixion, resurrection, and subsequent appearances to His disciples. He writes about the implications of those events that, just as we all died in Adam, so in Christ we are all made alive and that, just as Christ has a new glorified body, so shall we put off the perishable and be raised with an imperishable body. What a glorious passage! This is what Easter means to us!

Without taking a breath, Paul then continues, *"Now about the collection for God's people"* (1 Corinthians 16:1). To our minds these two themes don't fit together. Certainly thoughts about the collection don't belong in an Easter message, do they? Paul thinks they do, and why not? First, how do we respond to such a great gift as our salvation? Since God has poured out on us the treasures of His grace, will we not want to make a tangible expression of thanksgiving? Second, with a dying world around us, will we not want to expedite the mission of the Church to spread the Gospel message? *"Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain"* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

### Is It Worth It?

A common complaint is that we are not appreciated. The mother gets the kids off to school, transfers them to games and lessons, prepares a delicious dinner, and receives no thanks and may, in fact, be criticized for being a few minutes late or forgetting the milk money in the lunch.

The worker stays late, placates the disagreeable client, and lands the big contract without so much as a pat on the back.

It's enough to make you wonder if it's worth it. Do you think Jesus wondered? He healed ten lepers and only one returned to thank Him. When the Jewish leaders ganged up on Him, even His most trusted and loyal followers fled, and one vehemently denied even knowing Him.

But, you see, appreciation and thanks are not what Jesus was focusing on. Even though He is God, He *"made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant . . . He humbled Himself and became obedient to death"* (Philippians 2:7, 8). He was obedient to God. He came to earth to give His life in exchange for ours, and He didn't look for praise or thanks from us.

Remembering this and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2), we follow His example. We are stewards who desire only to please our Father in Heaven. He is the One Who will say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:21).

