CHRIST’S DEATH BROUGHT REFORMATION

CHRIST ACKNOWLEDGED PETER’S REFORMATION AFTER HIS RESURRECTION: Peter's reformation was so far accepted by Christ that after his resurrection he made special mention of him, sending him a message that he should see him in Galilee. How thoughtful and considerate this act of the Saviour! He who had been tempted like as we are tempted, understood the humiliation of Peter, and mentioned his name among the first in his message, to evidence to the sorrowing disciple that his Master remembered and acknowledged him, notwithstanding his surprising apostasy. Soon after this, Jesus revealed himself to Peter. At the Sea of Galilee he prepared food for him and his two brethren, John and James, and called them from their occupation on the water, saying, "I will make you fishers of men." Jesus did not cast Peter off; but as he had three times denied his Master, he tested his loyalty by three times putting to him the question, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" Three times the answer came, not in the old proud and boastful manner, but in subdued and earnest tones from a humble heart, and quivering lips: "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee."

PETER RE-COMMISSIONED AS A RESULT OF REFORMATION IN HIS LIFE: Jesus re-instated Peter in his former position of trust. He gave him the commission, "Feed my lambs," and the twice-repeated injunction, "Feed my sheep." The naturally impetuous and overbearing Peter, who once repulsed the mothers that came to Christ bringing their little children to receive his blessing, now that he was converted, was prepared to nurse the lambs of the
Master's fold, as well as to care for the more experienced sheep. Here we see the defeat of Peter turned into a victory. Christ had once said to him, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Peter was now prepared for the important work of trust which our Lord gave him. He was no longer boastful and self-confident, having no patience with those whom he thought weaker and less zealous than himself. An abiding sense of his disgraceful fall prepared him to be compassionate toward the weak and erring. With humble gratitude he would recall and relate his experience concerning his fall, and the pitying love of his Master in forgiving his apostasy, accepting his repentance, establishing him again in his confidence, and trusting him with a more responsible work than had previously been given him. Pamphlet-069, pp. 19-20.

WHAT DOES CHRIST’S DEATH MEAN TO YOU?: In our behalf Christ has made a tremendous sacrifice. He laid aside His royal crown, He laid aside His royal robe, and came to this world, born of humble parentage. Many were not attracted by the humility of His life, and He was despised and rejected of men. He suffered persecution, until at length He was crucified and died a shameful death. What does this mean to us? He came as the Saviour of every sinner that will accept of the divine sacrifice. He united in Himself divinity and humanity, that He might be the connecting link between fallen man and the Father. But will men accept of the conditions? Who of you will become partakers of the divine nature? There should be no delay in accepting Christ. Peters’ Counsel to Parents, p. 10.

HAS THE DEATH OF CHRIST WROUGHT ANY REFORMATION IN YOUR LIFE? REFLECT ON THIS QUESTION DURING THE 2011 EASTER CELEBRATION. GOD BLESS YOU!