

“God’s Continuing Pursuit”
By Brother Kenneth Ray
April 24th, 2011

NOTE: Due to circumstances beyond our control, our Easter Sunday morning service was very brief, and did not include a sermon. The following notes are from the sermon that Brother Kenneth had intended to preach.

Last week we talked about ‘Pursue Through You.’

Matthew 10:1-2 ...He had called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power...

Luke 6:13 ...He chose twelve, whom also He named apostles...

Luke 22:14 ...He sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him.

These show that Jesus was still here when the disciples were made Apostles.

Today we close out our Pursue It theme.

As we take time, or make time, to reflect and celebrate the victory of Christ over the grave and death, I would like to point out to you that it was part of a much bigger design. A plan was set into action that, to this date, is still in motion and is being carried out. God is not a slacker (well, the Scripture says, “God is not slack...”). My hope and prayer is that God will give the understanding to us of how it affects us, and out part to help fulfill His plan.

Like any plan, it had a beginning, it has a middle, and it has an end. Let’s take a look, shall we?

In the beginning, in the book of Genesis we read that God made the Heavens and the Earth, and all that is in it (in six days, and He rested on the seventh). Man, woman, places in Eden, the fall of man; this created a need, and here we find the beginning of God’s plan.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...

Matthew 1:21 ...thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.

This plan is a restoration; a rehab project. The flood cleansed the world of sin, but did nothing to restore what was lost in the garden so long ago, our relationship with the Creator.

Jesus’ Pursuit of Fulfillment

Luke 2:49 ...wist ye not that I must be about My Father’s business?

At this point, Jesus is twelve years old. For approximately the next twenty-one years in the flesh, Jesus will be about this business.

John 6:48 I am that bread of life.

John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven...

He taught us the ways of God so that we would know how resurrection would come. It would come by Jesus dying on a cross, bearing the sins of the world, so sin could be taken away and access to heaven be made available to us.

John 1:29 ...Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.

Receive of the Holy Ghost

Matthew 9:6 ...the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins...

Now He was dead, buried, and on the third day rose again. That is all great, but how will it be restored now?

This is why the title, "God's Continued Pursuit." We have the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (the Spirit of God), still teaching us. Baptism in Jesus' name PLUS repentance PLUS faith PLUS believing... Jesus still has power to forgive sin, now through baptism.

Acts 2:38 ...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ...

Simply put, God's Spirit will dwell in you.

Romans 6:4-5 ...we are buried with Him by baptism into death...

In Heaven, when Saints are called home from every nation, what was meant to be shall be, once more and forever: A restored relationship with God, with all the perks and no expiration date.