

O Give Thanks!

At the birth of our daughters, my wife and I were excited! What a thrill to count all their fingers and toes and get all of the right numbers! Ten, each! Whew!!! O Give Thanks! We wanted them to be as we had always envisioned—completely safe, whole and healthy in mind, body and spirit! Truly human as humans were designed to be! This analogy hints at the purpose of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's one thing to be included in a family and be hampered by sin. It's another thing to be included and to share in the divine nature of the Triune God and His family, yet without sin, as He had always envisioned for us. This is why we give thanks for the necessity of Jesus' Resurrection! God the Father, Son and Spirit was going to adopt us into His family in and through Jesus, period (Eph 1:3-5). God wanted to make sure that in our adoption we would be as he had always envisioned—safe, whole and healthy in mind, body and spirit! Truly and fully human as we were designed to be! As Jesus Christ IS!

That is where the Resurrection and "Whew!!!" comes in! If Jesus came only to die and put our sin to death then we would have no hope for life, because He did such a good job of putting our sin to death that there would have been no more us! If our daughters had been born with deformities of every kind, we would have loved them regardless, but they would have been hampered by the deformities from living the kind of life they were ideally created for, humanly. In His Resurrection, Jesus made sure that not only would our deformity and sin die permanently, but He rose with a renewed and ideal humanity so that we could live and be the Adopted Human Children He and His Father had always dreamed of in the Spirit! Read the lectionary text of Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 in this Gospel context, and you will find yourself saying some of the same things that me and the Psalmist have said in the light of our Birth and Adoption in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus, especially "Whew!!!" and "O Give thanks [to you] Lord, [because] you...have become my salvation!"

~ Tim Brassell