

HE IS RISEN

The greeting is a familiar one on this day of days. Resurrection Sunday. It has little to do with Easter baskets and candy – or the Easter bunny.

The truth is Jesus Christ was not just an historical figure. Or a good man – or a holy man. Jesus Christ was God come in the flesh.

The resurrection of Christ is an historical fact for these 3 reasons – just 3 for the purpose of our message today.

1. The tomb was found empty.
2. Jesus' own disciples had encounters with the risen Christ
3. The church started and grew as a result

I. THE TOMB EMPTY

- A. Jesus Christ was first preached as the resurrected Savior in the same city as He was crucified in. – Jerusalem (You don't stage a farce in your backyard.
- B. Even the Jews that did not believe did not deny the empty tomb – they believed the body to be stolen.
- C. The burial story is one of the best-established fact about Jesus.
 - All the disciples died because of this
 - Joseph of Armithea – Part of the Sanhedrin – a kind of Jewish Supreme Court – gave his personal tomb for burial.
- D. The empty tomb was found first by women
 - Their testimony was considered worthless in Jewish culture.

II. DISCIPLES

A. Three alternatives:

1. They were lying
2. They hallucinated
3. They really saw Jesus
 - 10 People do not give their lives for a lie – maybe 1 or 2
 - Hallucinations? – By 10 people? – All the same hallucination?
 - Conversion of the Apostle Paul – who wrote 13 of the books in the NT – saw Christ 3 years later.

The disciples saw, touched and even ate with the Lord.

III. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

- 1. Jesus claimed to be God. Even if you do not believe the Bible to be inspired the facts cannot be denied by any reasonable inquirer. Even skeptical scholars admit the passages about His resurrection to be valid.**
- 2. Because His resurrection is true, the Word of God is also true. 66 Books over 4,000 years by 40 authors who agree with one another.**
- 3. Different religions contradict one another – they cannot be true.**
- 4. Jesus is the only religious leader that rose from the dead. His resurrection is proof positive that all He said was true.**

Act 17:30 "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 "because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Truth is this – we will all answer for our lives one day – before a Holy God.

We do not measure up to His standard – if we are honest.

Jesus offers eternal life – He rose from the dead because He loves us and wants us to be with Him for an eternity.

God is just – He cannot let sins go – the penalty must be paid. That penalty was paid by Jesus Himself. He died in our place.

Rom 4:23 Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, 24 but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, 25 who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

He is willing and able to forgive and cleanse each one of us.

Resurrection is promised for those who will trust Christ as their Savior. We will raise from the dead to be with Him for eternity.

- 1. All have sinned – Rom.3:23**
- 2. The wages of sin is death – Rom.6:23**

3. While we were in sin – Christ died for us. – Rom.5:8

4. Speak it yourself – and believe in your heart – Rom.10:9,10

God does not grade on a curve – it's a pass or fail – simple as that!

The law must be kept with perfection – Jesus did that and welcomes you to be included in that perfection through your belief in Him and what he accomplished.

Illustration: Swimming to Hawaii from San Diego

Rich man offers a million dollars to whomever can swim the distance from San Diego to Hawaii.

The rules are that you must swim the distance – without any motorized or other assistance – and no one helping.

No takers – he offers 10 million – still no takers.

Finally he offers 100 million and 10,000 people show up – that's a lot of money

After 20 yards many turn back who either can't swim or are bad swimmers. 5

miles 250 swimmers – 20 miles – 150 and at 50 miles – at 100 miles 2 are left.

Finally a woman that is an Olympic gold medalist makes it an extraordinary 215 miles – when she is pulled into a boat she tells the rich man she deserves it – and then tries to get him to pay her for the distance she swam. But the rules were shore to shore.

There is no “almost being good enough.” There are no partial awards. Belief in Christ is it.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,