

Why Easter?

Every year we celebrate what we call “Easter;” many refer to this as “Resurrection Sunday.” Whether one calls it Easter or Resurrection Sunday, the fact remains that many people do not know, or have forgotten its **TRUE** meaning. The whole meaning and purpose of Easter is about the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. So, why Easter?

Sin entered the realm of humanity as a direct result of the disobedience of Adam in the Garden of Eden when he ate of the forbidden fruit. Adam, our federal head, was given a very specific command by God: *“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”* {Genesis 2:17}

God says what He means, and He means what He says! The death that God spoke of was a spiritual death and, eventually, a physical death. As a result, animals died in Adam’s place; God slew an animal (first bloodshed in the Bible) and made garments for Adam and Eve and drove them out of the Garden.

“Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.” {Genesis 3:21; 24}

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:” {Romans 5:12}

That one man was none other than Adam in the Garden of Eden; Adam’s sin was disobedience to the holy God who had created him! Atonement (covering) for sin was made by the shedding of blood of animals, but this was only a temporary covering and it pointed to the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world forever; the Lamb of God was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

During the time that Israel wandered in the Wilderness for 40 years, they complained and rebelled against God who, in His great anger, sent among them as punishment poisonous serpents, and many people died. Even in this God did provide a way of escape and an opportunity to be physically saved. God gave specific instructions:

“And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.” {Numbers 21:9}

This was a type of Christ for in the Gospel of John we read,

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.” {John 3:14-15}

God the Son, in the person of Jesus Christ, came to this place called earth for one purpose and one purpose only, and that was to die on the Cross of Calvary as the FULL and FINAL payment of OUR sin debt. Jesus was fully God and fully man; He did not have a sin nature because He was born of Mary, who was conceived of by the Holy Spirit,

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.” {Matthew 1:18}.

Christ had a purpose for coming:

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.” {Matthew 1:21}

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” {Luke 19:10}

He could only do this by dying and shedding His innocent blood on the Cross:

“And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.” {John 19:17-18}

“But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.” {John 19:33-34}.

Jesus was placed in a tomb that was sealed and had Roman guards, but neither the tomb nor the guards were able to prevent His bodily resurrection three days later, for we read,

“In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.” {Matthew 28:1-6}

You see my friend, the stone was NOT rolled away to let Jesus out; it was rolled away to let the world look in and see that He was not there, for He was bodily risen, for He is God.

My friend, Easter (Resurrection Sunday) is all about the death, burial, and bodily resurrection of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. And why would He go through all of this for us? The answer is really quite simple,

“For God so loved the world, (emphasis added) that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” {John 3:16}

That phrase, “so loved the world” includes you, my friend.

“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” {Romans 5:6-8}

This is why we have Easter (Resurrection Sunday) we remember what Jesus did on our behalf. Do YOU know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? If you do not, you can, if you will repent (take God’s side against your sin) and ask for His forgiveness and by faith alone in His shed blood, receive Him as your personal Saviour; you will be forgiven and saved for all eternity.

“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.” {Romans 5:10-11}

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” {1 John 5:11-13}

Having trusted Jesus as personal Saviour does NOT mean that we have a license to live however we want to; we have a responsibility to live in such a manner as to bring honor and glory to our Saviour. This is why it’s important to read our Bible daily, to pray, and to attend a good Bible preaching church on a regular basis, so that we can be fed from God’s Word and grow spiritually.

Well, neighbor, now you know from God’s Word why we have Easter; now you know what it’s all about. If you were to die next week, next month, or next year, do you know today, RIGHT NOW, that you are saved and will go to be with Jesus in Heaven? If you do not, then I most humbly encourage you to repent of your sin, ask Jesus for forgiveness, and receive Him as your personal Saviour. **Do it today – do it now before it’s eternally too late!**