

WHY EASTER REALLY MATTERS

"When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?' But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee.' There you will see him, just as he told you."

Mark 16:1-7 (NIV)

❖ "Easter Matters" because it CONFIRMS who JESUS is.

1. Jesus is the PERSON He claimed to be.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."

John 11:25 (NIV)

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can get to God the Father except by means of me."

John 14:6 (LB)

"When you consider the words of Jesus you must come to one of 3 conclusions. Either He was a liar, a fake, a phony... or He was crazy, insane, had a God complex, or He was who He said He was, the Son of God, Savior of the World. You cannot just say that He was a great teacher or prophet when you consider He said He was the only way to God, the only way to Heaven."

C.S. Lewis

2. Jesus has the POWER to do what He claimed to do.

"All power in heaven and on earth is given to me."

Matthew 28:18 (Ph)

"No one takes my life from me. I have the power to lay it down and I have the power to take it up again."

John 10:18 (Ph)

3. Jesus fulfilled the PURPOSE that He claimed He would fulfill.

"They will mock... and flog... and kill me; but after three days I will come back to life again."

Mark 10:34 (LB)

"The angel said, 'Don't be frightened! I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified, but he isn't here! He has come back to life again, just as he said he would.'"

Matthew 28:5-6 (LB)

❖ "Easter Matters" because it can CHANGE your LIFE.

1. It means that your PAST LIFE can be changed.

"He has forgiven all our sins... and canceled every record of the debt we owed; Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross."

Colossians 3:14 (JB)

"There is no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ."

Romans 8:1 (LB)

2. It means that your PRESENT LIFE can be renewed.

"How incredibly great is his power to help those who believe Him... the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead!"

Ephesians 1:20 (LB)

"I am ready for anything through the strength of Christ who lives in me."

Philippians 4:13 (Ph)

3. It means that your FUTURE LIFE can be secure.

"This is the way to have eternal life - by knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ, the one he sent to earth!"

John 17:3 (LB)

"We have been born again into a life full of hope through Christ's rising from the dead."

1 Peter 1:3 (NIV)

❖ "Easter Matters", but will it MATTER to you?

1. I'm Going to Heaven because I am SINCERE.

"I don't think it matters what you believe as long as you are sincere."

2. I'm Going to Heaven because of my SERVICE.

"I'm a good person, I do good things, I'm getting in because of all I do."

3. I'm Going to Heaven by SUBTRACTION.

"I don't drink, smoke, cuss, steal, cheat, speed, I'm better than most."

4. I'm Going to Heaven by taking the right STEPS.

"I go to church, I've been baptized, I go to confessional, I pray the rosary, I give money to the church, I support other good charities."

"There is no one righteous, not even one." - Romans 3:10 (NIV)

"For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard."

Romans 3:23 (NLT)

"For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Romans 10:9 (NLT)