

The Gospel of Easter

1 Corinthians 15: 1-6

Today is a day that is recognized by many, but not celebrated by all. This is the Sunday that we call Easter Sunday. For many in the world it is accepted as a holiday, but not a holy day. There are those who recognize Easter as a time for Easter baskets, bunnies, and eggs. There are those who place a lot of emphasis on a new Easter outfit. Others view it as the first opportunity to get away, beginning the vacation season. To the believer it is Resurrection Sunday; the day that we celebrate the resurrection of our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Easter is a special time that we ought to take the time to reflect upon. It is so much more than the events or activities of a single day. For the Christian, Easter represents our deliverance from sin and bondage. It is a time that we are reminded of all the Lord did for us and all that we have in Him.

I really have no idea what Easter means to you. That is something that you must decide for yourself. It is my prayer, however, if you don't know the Christ that we celebrate at Easter, that you will come to know Him today.

I have read a portion of Scripture that is probably not the typical Easter passage, but it reveals the substance of what we celebrate. Paul has shared the truths of the Gospel with those in Corinth. Easter is the Gospel. We cannot truly celebrate Easter apart from the Gospel. So as the Lord leads, I want to preach on this thought: [The Gospel of Easter](#).

I. The Truth of the Incarnation (3) – [For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures](#); Here Paul is speaking to the church at Corinth. He is speaking to them concerning the Man, Jesus Christ. Christ is the focus of the passage. He is the focus of the Bible. Paul wanted them to center their hearts upon Jesus and in Him alone.

- There were those in Paul's day who doubted that Jesus was who He claimed to be. Many may have had no problem accepting the fact that Jesus lived upon the earth, but they couldn't embrace the fact that He was the holy, sinless, eternal God-Man. Paul is emphasizing the fact that Jesus was the Messiah; He was who He claimed to be. He was born on this earth, of a virgin womb, walked and lived as a man, and yet without sin. In Christ, the true and living God took on a robe of flesh and dwelt among sinful men!

- It is impossible to celebrate Easter without also accepting the incarnation of Christ. Many in our day have no problem accepting the fact that Jesus lived upon this earth. They will even admit that they believe that He was a great teacher, a prophet, a miracle worker, and a man of great compassion. But, they stop dreadfully short of embracing Jesus as the Christ, the only begotten of the Father, the Savior of the world.

- I wonder on this Easter Sunday morning, how do you view Christ? Do you believe that He lived here upon the earth? Do you believe that He came as God in the flesh? Are you convinced that Jesus is who He claimed to be?

I. The Truth of the Incarnation (3)

II. The Truth of the Crucifixion (3-4a) – For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; and that **he was buried**. Now Paul speaks of the death of Christ. The gospels record the events of the crucifixion for us. Just as Jesus lived here upon the earth, He also died here upon the earth.

- The circumstances of Jesus' death are important for us to understand. He was a Man who knew no sin. He was not guilty of any crimes. There were no accusations that could be brought against Him. As He was tried before Pilate and Herod, Jesus was found innocent of all charges. Pilate declared that He found no fault in Him.
- The religious leaders and the vast majority of the Jews would have it no other way. They demanded that Jesus be crucified for crimes that He had not committed. As we view the cross, and the awful death that Jesus died, we see an innocent Man hanging there.
- His life was lived in communion with God. He loved all that He met, and even those He didn't. He touched those who were diseased; he raised the dead; He calmed the storms of life for those around Him.
- This innocent Man was scourged mercilessly and nailed to a rugged cross. He was spat upon and smitten. He was ridiculed and mocked. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head and spear was thrust into His side. The multitudes that gathered had no mercy upon the One who had shown such love and compassion. The Son of God bled and died upon a Roman cross. After His death, His lifeless body was taken and placed in a borrowed tomb. A stone was set at the door as Jesus was buried.

III. The Truth of the Substitution (3) – One might ask why He was put to death. Why was He crucified upon the cross? If He was innocent, why did He have to die? These are valid questions; questions that need to be answered. The answer to that question is found in our text. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures**;

- He was not there because He was guilty. He was not there because He deserved the cross. He was not there because Pilate had consented to His death or the Jews had cried out for His crucifixion. He was there for you and me. He died for our sins. He died that we might be forgiven, that we might be restored to God and escape His righteous judgment.
- The truth is Jesus became our substitute. The holiness of God demanded a sacrifice for the sins of mankind. We are all born in sin and guilty before God. Our sin caused separation

and that sin had to be atoned. Jesus was the only One who was worthy to be that sacrifice. Jesus died on the cross so that we wouldn't have to die for all of eternity!

- As we view the cross we ought to see a Savior who took our place. He bore our sin and our shame. He became sin that we might have salvation. This was the way that God planned it before the foundation of the world. It wasn't the crowds or the nails that held Jesus there. It was love. He willingly gave His life that we might be saved!

I. The Truth of the Incarnation

II. The Truth of the Crucifixion

III. The Truth of the Substitution

IV. The Truth of the Resurrection (4) – [And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures](#): Jesus died upon the cross; He was buried in the tomb, but praise His holy name, He didn't stay dead. The grave could not hold our Lord. He rose victorious on that third glorious day. He satisfied the righteous demands of the Father and He conquered sin and death for all of mankind throughout eternity.

- That is what we have met to celebrate today. We serve a risen Lord. He is no longer in the tomb. He came forth just as He said He would. As the women went to the tomb on that first Easter morning they found that He was no longer there. [Lu.24:5-6 – And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.](#) That is what sets Jesus apart from all the other gods of this world. Many worship others today, but they are still in the tomb. Our Lord has risen and He is alive forever more!

- I cannot emphasize the importance of this truth enough. Had Jesus not risen, He would have been no different than any other. Had He not conquered the grave we would have no hope of life after death. Because He lives, we too have the glorious hope and assurance of eternal life.

- He is the firstfruits of them that shall live again. He is the [first begotten of the dead, Rev.1:5](#). The phrase first begotten comes from the Greek word *protkos* from which we get our word prototype. He was the first to rise again from the dead, but He will not be the last. [1 Thes.4:16-18 – For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.](#)

I. The Truth of the Incarnation

II. The Truth of the Crucifixion

III. The Truth of the Substitution

IV. The Truth of the Resurrection

V. The Truth of the Obligation (1-2a) – Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved. The sacrifice that Jesus made upon the cross is the source of our salvation. It is the means by which we are saved. There is no other way to be forgiven of sin and reconciled to God.

- Jesus died for the sins of all humanity. Your sins were paid for at Calvary, but that doesn't guarantee your salvation. You must admit your need for a Savior and accept the work of the cross. You must make a conscious decision to accept the Lord.

Wouldn't it be awful to die in your sin, missing heaven, and face the eternal torments of hell? It doesn't have to be that way! Jesus died so that you might live. If you are not saved and He has spoken to your heart, please come right now and allow the Lord to save your soul.