

## “WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES EASTER MAKE?”

APRIL 16, 2023

Easter is essential to the \_\_\_\_\_.

**1 Corinthians 15:3-8** – <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

What if Christ had not been raised?

**1 Corinthians 15:13-19** – <sup>13</sup>But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. <sup>14</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. <sup>17</sup>And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

Easter changes everything!

1. Easter proves Jesus has the \_\_\_\_\_ that He claims to have.

**John 10:18** – No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

**Acts 2:24** – God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

2. My \_\_\_\_\_ is forgiven.

**John 20:19-20** – <sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

**Colossians 2:14** – by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

3. My present has \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ephesians 1:19-20** – <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup>that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.

**John 20:21-22** – <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

4. My \_\_\_\_\_ is secure.

**Psalms 16:9-11** – <sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure. <sup>10</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. <sup>11</sup>You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Acts 2:26-27** – <sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. <sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.

**1 Peter 1:3-4** – <sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Conclusion