

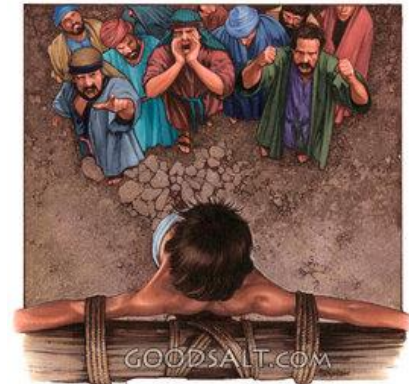
# WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE MESSAGE BEHIND EASTER

- When we look at the events of Easter (the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus) we can be greatly encouraged



- When we look at what Jesus went through on the cross we can learn much about His great love for us and what true sacrificial love really is
- Today I will be quickly looking at some aspects of the events relating to Christ's sacrifice on the cross and His glorious resurrection from the dead

**1) We see God's incredible love for us (and how God is rich in mercy – That as believers we do not get the punishment that we deserve for our sins because Christ paid the penalty for our sins in full on the Cross at Calvary)**



**Jesus Himself said,**

**“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” (John 15:13)**

**Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,” (Ephesians 2:4)**



**King David wrote,**

**“The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy.” (Psalm 103:8)**

**2) We see the willingness of Jesus to lay down His life for others - His great sacrifice and suffering because of His love for us (Jesus is *our example* of what it is to live sacrificially for others)**

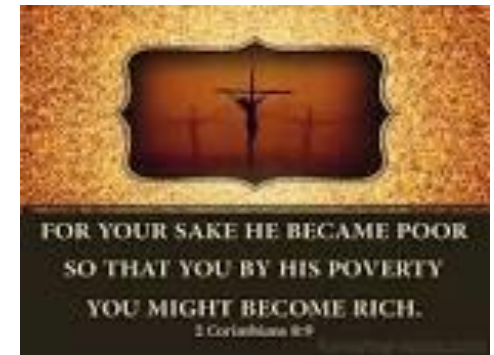


**In the book of Hebrews we read,**

**“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, *who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross*, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”  
**(Hebrews 12:2)****

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.” (2 Corinthians 8:9)**

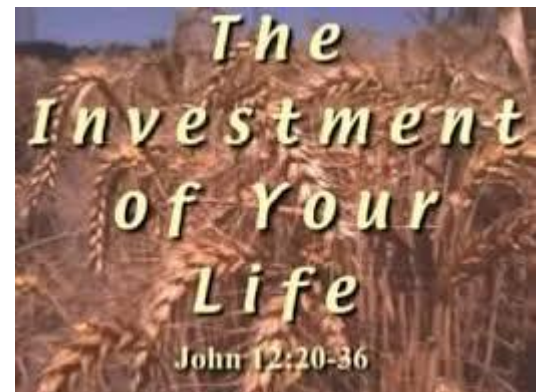


**It is only as we lay down our lives for the cause of Christ and CHOOSE to sacrificially live for others that our lives bear much eternal fruit**

**Jesus Himself said,**

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of what falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honour.”

**(John 12:24-26)**



### **3) The incredible grace of God - Jesus forgiving the criminal on the cross - Jesus will reject no person that comes to Him**

**Even though both criminals being crucified with Jesus were initially reviling Him as He hung on the cross, (Mark 15:32) the moment one of them came to his senses and repented of his sins Jesus immediately forgave him.**

**We see this in the gospel of Luke**



“Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.”



But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, “Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” **(Luke 23:39-43)**



#### 4) The complete sovereignty of God - Death could not hold Jesus down. He arose triumphantly from the grave



**Jesus Himself said,**

“Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.” **(John 10:17-18)**

- When Jesus is truly Lord of our life we can be assured that He is truly sovereign in the affairs of our life – Nothing can happen to us apart from God's will for our life

**Jesus Himself said,**



**“Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will.” (Matthew 10:29)**

**“Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Matthew 10:31)**

**5) That Jesus can identify with our pain and rejection in life (His disciples abandoned Him at the time of His greatest need in life) - As Christ's ambassadors we too will experience persecution and rejection for our faith**



**After His betrayal in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus said to the multitudes,**  
“Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” **Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.** *(Matthew 26:55-56)*

**Jesus Himself said,**

**“If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (John 15:18-19)**



## 6) The great concern that Jesus has for all people

(Right up to the moment that He died on the cross  
His only concern was for others)

**We see Jesus' concern for all people as He hung on the cross, "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*." (John 19:25-27)**



## 7) Jesus' commitment to doing the will of His Father in heaven



**We see this when Jesus prayed to His Father in Heaven in the Garden of Gethsemane**

“And He was withdrawn from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and prayed, saying, “Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” **(Luke 22:41-42)**



- Because of Jesus' commitment to doing the will of His Father in Heaven and to going to the cross to pay the ransom for our sins, multitudes will spend an eternity with Him
- Likewise, if we too are committed to doing the will of God for our lives, we will also help many others to come to Christ so that they will spend an eternity with Him.
- Every believer can make a great difference in this world for eternity if they live for the Kingdom Cause





**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”  
**(Ephesians 2:10)**

“For we are His  
*workmanship*  
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which God prepared  
beforehand  
that we should *walk* in them.”  
Ephesians 2:10





**8) That we as believers in the future will have a glorified resurrected body with no limitations**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”<sup>[a]</sup>

**(1 Corinthians 15:53-54)**

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

“For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.” **(2 Corinthians 5:1-4)**



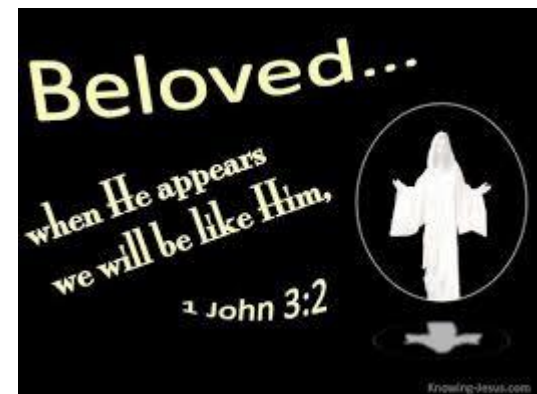
**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” **(1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)**



**The Apostle John wrote,**

**“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”  
(1 John 3:2)**



9) Because of Christ's sacrificial death on the Cross, as believers we have forgiveness of all our sins, eternal life and *continual access to God's presence*



**Jesus Himself said,**

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”  
**(John 3:16)**

In the book of Acts we read the Words of the Apostle Peter when he preached in Solomon's Portico. The Apostle Peter said,

“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be **blotted out**, so that times of refreshing may come from the **presence of the Lord.**” (Acts 3:19)



- When Jesus died on the cross the veil of the temple (the thick curtain between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies) was torn in two from the top to the bottom making it clear that this was not an act of man



- Jesus' death opened the way to the presence of God and put an end to the Old Testament temple and sacrificial systems
- Every believer can now enjoy continual access to God's presence which previously only the High priest once a year could experience

- **We read about the tearing of the veil in the gospel of Matthew**

“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

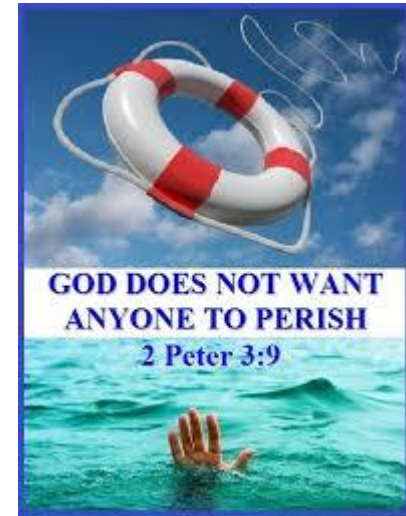
Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”

**(Matthew 27:50-53)**





**10) God demonstrated through the giving of His only Son Jesus, how truly it is His desire that none would perish. In Christ we have an eternal hope.**



**The Apostle Peter wrote,**

**“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)**

## The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die, yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.” **(Romans 5:6-9)**



**11) That the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us as believers (We now have the power and enabling ability to do great things for God's glory and to lead and overcoming life)**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”  
(Romans 8:11)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,”  
**(Ephesians 3:20)****



**12) That through what Christ did on the cross  
for us we can now walk as believers in  
triumph and victory**



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in  
triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the  
fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”**

**(2 Corinthians 2:14)**

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

**“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)**

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

As it is written:

“For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”

Yet in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.”  
**(Romans 8:35-37)**



**The Apostle John wrote,**

**“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” (1 John 4:4)**

**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

**“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13)**



**13) We can depend on all of God's promises to us in His word. Jesus predicted that He would rise from the dead three days after being crucified on the cross at Calvary – Three days later as He foretold He arose triumphantly from the grave.**

**Jesus Himself said,**

**“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death, and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again.” (Matthew 20:18-19)**





- As Christians we can build our lives based on the promises of God in His word



**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20)**

**AND**

14) Because of the events of Easter we have as believers eternal life AND a future full of hope and meaning, both now AND in the age to come.



Jesus said to Martha,

“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die...” (John 11:25-26)

**In the book of Jeremiah we read,**

**“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”**

**(Jeremiah 29:11)**

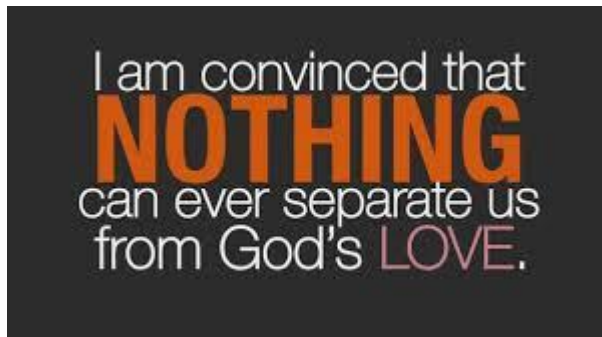


**“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”**

**(Jeremiah 29:13)**

**The Apostle Paul wrote,**

**“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)**



**The Apostle Paul also wrote,**

**“But as it is written:**

**“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,**

**Nor have entered into the heart of man**

**The things which God has prepared for**

**those who love Him.”**

**“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)**



**So in conclusion:** Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That Jesus Christ is alive forevermore.



**In the gospel of Mark we read,**

“Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” **(Mark 16:1-3)**

“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

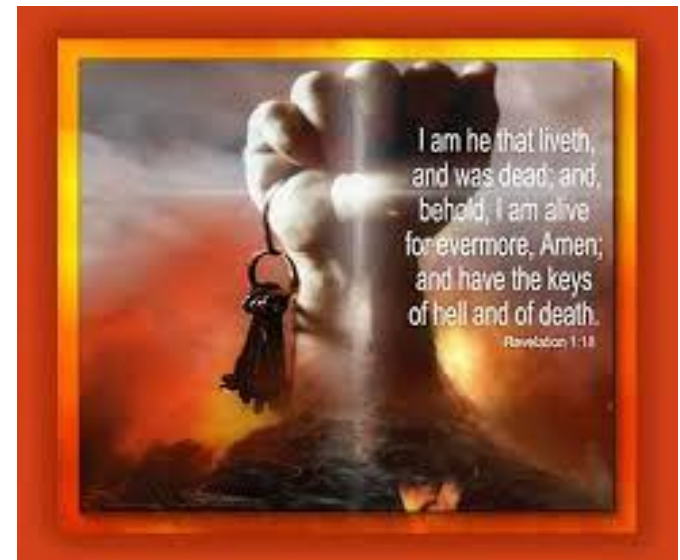
But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.” **(Mark 16:4-6)**





**In the book of Revelation we read the words of Jesus,**

**“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”  
**(Revelation 1:17-18)****





# Because Jesus Christ conquered the grave we can be assured that as believers:

- We have a wonderful eternal hope and future
- That we have a Saviour who can identify with all of our present struggles and challenges
- That we have a God who loves us with a passion and who will never leave nor forsake us, and
- That we have a God who is both willing and able to help us at all times, “For with God nothing will be impossible” **(Luke 1:37) As believers we truly have a wonderful hope and future**

