

The Christian Arsenal

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WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES EASTER MAKE

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INTRO: THERE ARE TWO QUESTIONS TO ASK ABOUT EASTER

1. What does it mean?
2. Why does it matter?

George Gallup Poll: 84% of the people who never go to church believe that Jesus rose from the dead.

WHAT DOES EASTER MEAN?

1. IT MEANS THAT JESUS IS WHO 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 (LB)

JESUS WAS ONE OF THREE THINGS:

1. LIAR – He was deceiving others.
2. LUNATIC – He was deceived Himself.
3. LORD – He **is** who He claimed to be.

"I am the way, the Truth, and the Life. No man can get to God the Father except by means of me." John 14:6 (LB)

2. IT MEANS THAT JESUS SHOWS HE HAD THE POWER HE CLAIMED TO HAVE.

"All power in heaven and on earth is given to me." Matt 28:28 (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. IT MEANS THAT JESUS DOES WHAT HE PROMISES TO DO.

"They will mock and flog and kill me but after three days I will come back to life." Mark 10:34 (LB)

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“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.” Matt 28:5-6 (LB)

WHY DOES EASTER MATTER?

1. IT MATTERS BECAUSE MY PAST CAN BE FORGIVEN.

Many people cannot get on with the present and the future because they are stuck in the past.

“He has forgiven all our sins ... and cancelled every record of the debt we owed; Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.” Col 3:14 (JB)

He was hung for my hang-ups and was nailed to the cross so I can quit nailing myself to the cross.

“There is no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ” Rom 8:1 (LB)

2. IT MATTERS BECAUSE MY PRESENT PROBLEMS CAN BE MANAGED.

Maturity is when you figure out that you can’t have it all figured out.

What you need is a power greater than yourself. You were never meant to live this life on your own power. God wants to have a relationship with you.

“How incredibly great is His power to help those who believe Him, the same power that raised Christ from the dead.” Eph 1:20 (LB)

The same power that enabled Jesus to rise from the dead will help you rise above your problems.

“I’m ready for anything through the strength of Christ who lives in me.” Phil. 4:13 (Ph)

3. IT MATTERS BECAUSE MY FUTURE CAN BE SECURE. TWO PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

PLAN “A”
Performance Plan
Perfect Plan
No Sin

PLAN “B”
Paid for Plan
Friend Plan
Grace

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"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)

PEOPLE TRY TO GET TO HEAVEN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS:

1. Salvation by SINCERITY – "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere."
2. Salvation by SERVICE – "I do all these good things and work my way there."
3. Salvation by SUBTRACTION – "I'll give up a bunch of things so I can go to heaven."
4. Salvation by SITTING – "I'll do some ritual such as baptism, Lord's supper, etc."
5. Salvation by HERITAGE – "My mother and grandmother were Christians therefore I am one too."
6. Salvation by COMPARISON – "I'm better than ... so and so."

"We have been born again into a life full of hope through Christ rising from the dead." I Peter 1:3 (LB)

You are not ready to live until you are ready to die.