

He Has Risen

April 5, 2026

- As Bible adhering Christians, we celebrate Easter every week
 - Because that is why we take the Lord's Supper each week
- I have no problem with the rest of the religious world celebrating Easter
 - Because **at least once a year**, the world focuses on the Resurrection of Jesus
 - And that's a good thing.
- At least **once a year** people think of Jesus
 - Even though the rest of the year
 - they **barely consider** Jesus and His resurrection

1 Cor.1:18

"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"

- a. The message of the cross is foolishness to them
 - a. because they don't see the resurrection.
 - b. The resurrection is what makes the message of the cross powerful,
 - i. and significant to all of us.
 - c. It's what validates what the cross represents.
 - d. A one-time sacrifice all time for mankind.
1. Have any of you ever played the game called "**Jenga**?"
 - a. It's where you have **all these wood blocks that fit together** and make a tower.
 - b. Each player takes a turn
 - i. trying to remove one of the blocks
 - ii. without causing the tower to collapse
 - iii. **BUT** if you pull out the wrong one
 1. the whole structure is going to fall.
 2. Over the years many people have tried to treat Christianity like the Jenga Tower
 - a. pulling out pieces
 - b. selectively removing "blocks" of the gospel
 - c. leaving big holes in its structure
 - d. until you finally pull out the wrong one
 - e. and it collapsed in a jumbled mess.

3. **One of the essential pieces that holds the structure of Christianity together**
 - a. is the bodily resurrection of Jesus
 - b. It is the cornerstone and foundation of the gospel.
 - c. If you remove it
 - d. there simply is no gospel.
4. Mary Magdalene and the other women show up at the tomb of Jesus early on Sunday morning
 - a. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus
 - i. had to prepare Jesus' body quickly
 - ii. because the sun was setting quickly
 - iii. on Friday
 - iv. and the Sabbath was approaching.
5. As the women approach the tomb
 - a. **they worry** about how they will move the stone that blocks the door
 - b. as they arrive there is a **violent earthquake**
 - i. and an **angel appears**.
 - ii. His appearance is like "lightening."
 - iii. His clothes white as snow
 - iv. and the guards that have been posted there by Pilate
 1. are so afraid that they shake
 2. and become like dead men.
6. And the **angel delivers this message**:
 - a. "Do not be afraid."
 - b. "*I know you're looking for Jesus who was crucified.*"
 - c. "*He's not here,*"
 - d. "*He has risen as He said,*"
 - e. "*come look at the place where He lay*"
 - f. "*now go tell His disciples He has risen*
 - i. *and is going ahead of them*
 - ii. *into Galilee.*"
 - g. "*You'll see Him there.*"
7. **With that promise** they take off towards Galilee like a lightning bolt
 - a. filled with fear,
 - b. wonder

c. and joy...

8. Suddenly there's Jesus.

a. "Greetings." (It's the everyday greeting for Hello)

9. Fear, joy, heart and feet racing,

a. and all of a sudden Jesus meets them

b. and says, "Hi."

10. I love it...Can't you just see them

a. falling at His feet,

b. holding on for dear life

c. in worship

11. and Jesus tells them,

a. "Don't be afraid,

b. complete your mission,

c. Go into Galilee and tell my brothers

d. to meet me there."

12. BUT REMEMBER THOSE GUARDS?

a. Do you remember why they were at the tomb?

13. Something amazing is happening in the Roman world of politics.

a. While a risen Savior is arranging meetings

b. the religious hierarchy

c. tries to pull the resurrection block

d. out of the puzzle.

MATTHEW 28:11-15

"While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, 'You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.'" So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."

14. Man! We've got to pull this Jenga piece immediately.

a. We'll lie,

b. bribe,

c. put forth alternative theories

d. whatever it takes

- e. because this could damage our position
 - i. as leaders and priests
 - ii. our authority would be stripped from us
 - iii. People would no longer trust us
 - iv. We would lose our livelihood

15. His resurrection was also challenging for the disciples to believe

John 20:19–29

“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again, Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

1 Corinthians 15:3–8

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter; and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.”

16. Today, people try and dismiss the validity of the Resurrection

- a. Don’t have to face reality of who Jesus is
- b. His message
- c. Talk about people having died on operating table
 - i. Come back to life
- d. Just a Bible story

17. Yet, it transformed the lives of these 11 disciples

- a. They went from cowards to fearless
- b. From helpless to stalwarts
- c. Fishermen and tax collectors to Preachers
- d. From want-to-be leaders to servants
- e. From boastful to humble
- f. And continues to change people

18. Its referred to in the NT 108 times

19. Yet the resurrection establishes the credibility of Jesus (3 Ways)

- a. TO JESUS
- b. HIS MESSAGE
- c. AND OUR HOPE FOR LIFE AFTER DEATH

20. To Jesus:

- a. He truly is the Son of God
- b. He is the Messiah who came to rescue the world from sin
- c. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him
 - i. (**Matthew 28:18**)

21. His message

- a. How to have a genuine relationship with God
- b. What pleases God
- c. What displeases and/or angers God – Sin
- d. What criteria God established to make it to heaven
- e. What happens to those whose names are not written in the Book of Life

22. Our hope for life after death

- a. THE RESURRECTION PROCLAIMS THE POWER OF GOD
- b. His resurrection from the dead proves that there is a hereafter
- c. He has gone ahead of us to prepare a place for us
- d. Where we can find eternal rest and peace
- e. No longer subject to the maladies of this life and the flesh
- f. He has given the Holy Spirit to those who are His
 - i. As a deposit to guarantee our admission into heaven

23. The Apostle Paul addresses the sceptics in:

1 Corinthians 15:12–58

“But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is

your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”

24. The Resurrection of Jesus should change your life

- a. If your life isn't constantly conforming to the image of God
- b. The Resurrection is nothing more than a recorded time in history

35. My life has (and continues to) being transformed

- a. His resurrection has given my life meaning and purpose

Colossians 3:1–4 – Describes my life

- And should describe anyone
- who calls themselves a Christian

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

- How are we raised with Christ?
- How is our life hidden with Christ?

Romans 6:1–4

“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

1. My question to you is:
2. What impact has Jesus' Resurrection made on your life?
 - a. Is it a once-a-year consideration?
 - b. A once in a while, when someone brings up Jesus in a conversation?
 - c. **Or** is Jesus your life (everyday and throughout the day)?
3. Have you been **raised with Christ** in baptism?
 - a. That is where true, genuine **Christianity begins**
 - b. Before baptism, you are only a believer

- c. No different from those who remember Jesus once a year
- 4. **Not** only have you **not** died to sin,
 - a. But you are still accountable to God for your sin
 - b. And let me tell you – GOD HATES SIN
 - c. That's not a good place to be
- 5. **TAKE NOTE:** Jesus has resurrected
 - a. And one day you and I will stand before him
 - b. And have to answer the question

6. HOW DID HIS RESURRECTION IMPACT YOUR LIFE?