

TEXT- *RP. 5:6-8*

INTRO- We have commercialized Easter as much as we have commercialized Christmas. And just as Santa Claus is the world's symbol of Christmas, the Easter Bunny is the world's symbol for Easter. It's fun to receive and eat chocolate Easter Bunnies and Eggs, candy chicks and jelly beans. And I'll concede that the Easter Bunny is a likeable enough character. But what positive message does the Easter Bunny have? The problem with the Easter Bunny is not in what he says, but what he doesn't say. He doesn't give a true picture of the real meaning of Easter.

I. THE BUNNY WON'T TELL YOU THE PRICE OF EASTER

If there is any discernable message from the bunny, it is that we should buy stuff. We should buy the chocolate rabbits and eggs. We should buy the stuffed toys and Easter baskets. We should buy flowers and other gifts. But the price has already been paid for you to enjoy Easter.

- All men are sinners
- Sin is anything that displeases God.
- Murder displeases God.
- Stealing at any level, big or small, displeases God.
- Lying displeases God.
- Adultery displeases God.
- Impure thoughts displease God.
- Unforgiveness displeases God.
- Unjustified anger displeases God.
- Disobedience to parents displeases God.
- And many other things displease God as well.

When we sin, we become debtors to God.

Someone has to pay for our sins.

The logical conclusion is that we are the ones who should pay for our own sins.

Eze 18:4 *Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.*

We deserve punishment.

But God in His love had another plan. He sent someone to earth who had never sinned to take our place and to pay our debts.

Rom 5:6-8 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

II. THE BUNNY WON'T TELL YOU THE POWER OF EASTER

The bunny will tell you of the power of fantasy that have absolutely nothing to do with the true meaning of Easter.

Easter is a day when the power of God is demonstrated!

1 Co 15:3-4 *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
Mar 16:1-7 *And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.*

- The tomb is empty.
- Jesus is not there!
- He is risen!

And for 40 days after the resurrection Jesus appeared to the disciples, proving to them that He was indeed alive from the dead. **Luke 24:36-43** There have been those who have been risen from the dead.

Jesus himself brought at least three people back from the dead.

Everyone else but Jesus died again. Jesus is still alive!

Rev 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

III. THE BUNNY WON'T TELL YOU THE PROMISE OF EASTER

The promise of Easter is simply this: **JESUS IS THE FIRST TO BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, BUT NOT THE LAST.**

Through Him, everyone will be raised from the dead.

Those that have placed his faith and trust in Him will be raised to spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

Rom 8:29 *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

1 Co 15:23 *But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*

IV. THE BUNNY WON'T TELL YOU THE PRIORITY OF EASTER

Jesus has already paid for your sins. Romans 6:10

There are people who think that forgiveness of sin comes from their own self effort, from their own good works.

Eph 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

The priority of Easter is that you accept the gift that Jesus has already paid for on the cross. The priority is that you believe on Jesus Christ as your Savior.

1 John 5:11-12 - *And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. [12] He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*

CONCL – Like the Grinch that stole Christmas don't let the Easter Bunny steal Easter