

## What are we Celebrating?

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Welcome to Resurrection Sunday at Lighthouse Baptist Church!

Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

We are obviously having a real celebration today; when men voluntarily cook and wash dishes... and clean up, that must really be some special occasion!

We are celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

### Matthew 28:1-10

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*.

5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, **All hail**. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, **Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.**

We are here today celebrating the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, Whom one day we too shall see face to face.

Actually, everyone is going to see Jesus face to face; we're just the ones who are going to be glad about it.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the one event in the history of the world that is truly worthy of a celebration!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate and final victory of good over evil.

Those who have trusted in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus after He lay three days and three nights in the tomb have received complete and total victory, once for all, over sin and death and hell and the grave!

They have trusted that our risen Savior has paid our debt of sin in full and now, having received that gift by faith in Him, we stand ready to walk in a new life of worship and service to our risen Lord.

Along with the resurrection of our Lord, we who are saved also get to celebrate a resurrection of our own!

### **Romans 6:4-11**

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that **Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.**

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You will witness the testimony of this every time you see us baptize a new believer.

Here at Lighthouse, we do not celebrate Easter; we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Some of you may think us radical or legalistic because of our stand on this.

After all, what kind of Church doesn't want to have an Easter egg hunt for the children?

I read about a man describing his childhood Easter experience.

He said, "My dad told me about this man named Jesus who came into the world to be our Savior. He lived a good life but men hated Him and they crucified Him on a cross.

But, three days later he rose from the dead and came out of the grave.

And that's why that once on Sunday every spring a giant rabbit sneaks into our house and hides his pretty colored eggs in all our furniture."

What does the Bible have to say about Easter?

The Scripture that probably describes Easter the best is found in:

**1 Corinthians 14:33** For God is not *the author* of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

The word Easter is mentioned in the Bible, one time.

### **Acts 12:1-10**

1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth *his* hands to vex certain of the church.

2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword.

3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

4 And when he had apprehended him, he put *him* in prison, and delivered *him* to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after **Easter** to bring him forth to the people.

5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *his* hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

What we are reading about is the great persecution of the Jerusalem Church during the year following the death and resurrection of our Lord.

The word translated 'Easter' in verse 4 is the word **Pashca**, it means **Passover**, not Easter; thus there is actually no mention of Easter in the Bible at all.

Why did the King James translators translate a word clearly meaning "Passover" to Easter; a word translated "passover" by them 27 other places in the New Testament?

Opinions vary on this all over the place. Lots of Googled websites proclaim that the early Church celebrated Easter.

No, it did not! What they are referring to is the Catholic Church - and subsequently the Protestants that came out from them who had merged their pagan backgrounds with their Catholic doctrine did...and that is true.

You can do all the research on this you might want to do but one thing rings clear in it all; there is nothing "Christian" about Easter.

A pagan goddess, the queen of heaven, Astarte, or any other demon god similar to this, the Bible has much to say about; none of it good.

Why did the translators do this? I don't honestly know; maybe by the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it was to them just a calendar date.

I do know the Lord allowed it to stay in the translation. I'll let you think for a while about why the Lord might have left it that way.

What I remember most about the time or two I went on an egg hunt when I was little was how I felt when everybody bigger and better at it got to all the eggs before I could find them.

We do lots of cool stuff for our kids and we've learned that we can do it well without lying to them or confusing them.

For us, celebrating the resurrection is not exclusive to one Sunday a year.

## **I. We are here every Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.**

*A. The central theme of everything we do here at Lighthouse, either directly or indirectly points to the resurrection of our Lord.*

1. The gospel is the central message of this Church.

### **2. Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel** of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

3. What is the gospel?

### **1 Corinthians 15:1-4**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

3 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:

4. The resurrection is the victory cry of the Gospel!

5. We practice Sunday worship in honor of the resurrection; as a matter of fact, it is one of three Church ordinances which, together, present the gospel:

a. The Lord's Supper which remembers the death of the Lord;

b. Baptism pictures the burial of the Lord;

c. And Sunday Worship celebrates the resurrection of the Lord.

10. These three, together picture the Gospel. How cool is that!

Secondly, and this is where the criticism usually comes in...

## II. We celebrate Christ exclusively.

A. *For us Christ is preeminent.*

### 1. **Colossians 1:9-22**

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

2. Our purpose is bringing Him glory...all the glory!

3. **Isaiah 43:7** *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

4. **Ephesians 3:21** *Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

*B. Glory in the Church...why is it so important?*

1. There are lots of good works; do not they all glorify the Lord?

2. A basic Bible Truths illustration:

Down in Galveston there is a famous hospital known as the Shriners Burn Hospital for children.

This, by all standards, is a great work. They will take in a burned child, regardless of ability to pay, and give that child the best medical attention in the world; all at no charge.

Who gets the credit, the praise, the glory for all that good work?

That's right, it's the Shriners.

Here at Lighthouse, we operate a burn prevention center...and all the glory for every last one we are able to keep out of hell goes to Jesus!

As a matter of fact - a Church (a real one) is the only organization on earth where the glory for every good thing that is done goes to Jesus.

*C. One aspect of God's character is that He is definitely jealous.*

**Exodus 34:14** *For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*

1. The Lord is not willing to share the glory that is His alone.

2. **Isaiah 42:5-8**

5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: [according to what we read in Colossians, this is Jesus speaking here; let's read on].

6 I the LORD [Jesus] have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

8 I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and **my glory will I not give to another...**

*D. The number one cause of Satan and the lost world is the theft and destruction of God's glory.*

**1. Romans 1:18-23**

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

When lost men turn their back on God completely, to the point of becoming totally reprobate, what do they do?

**23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to:**

2. **corruptible man,**

3. **and to birds,**

4. **and fourfooted beasts,**

5. **and creeping things.**

**Do you see a bunny rabbit fit into that list anywhere?**

**Conclusion:**

**Why would we want Jesus to share His glory with anyone or anything?**

**The answer is simple, we don't!**

**We asked the question earlier; "Why do you think God allowed that mistranslated term Easter to remain in our English Bible?"**

**It seems to me that God is willing for those who want to celebrate Easter to go right on ahead and do it.**

**That would also make those who would celebrate only His resurrection stand out even more.**

**So, what will you celebrate today?**