

Easter Message

[1Co 15:12-19 KJV] 12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then [is] our preaching vain, and your faith [is] also vain. 15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. 16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith [is] vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

[1Co 15:20 KJV] 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.

Jesus is alive.

Adrian Rogers, The natural eye looks at Jesus and asks, "What's so great about Him?" If we started to talk about His life completely, we never would be able to finish. There are so many miracles. He went about doing good and showed great love in the way that He lived. He was not without sorrow, but He was without sin. The virtuous life of the Lord Jesus is nothing glamorous at first glance, but it is full of glory and worthy of praise.

Greg Laurie said, The Bible tells us there is "a time to be born and a time to die" (Ecclesiastes 3:2). And while it's true that our bodies will cease to function at one point, there is life beyond the grave. Because Christ died and rose, we don't have to be afraid.

That is the essential message of Easter. The follower of Jesus doesn't have to fear death.

Jesus is a living, breathing, powerful God. Many have examined the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus.

Two atheists

Doctor Simon Greenleaf (Dec. 5 1783 – Oct. 6, 1853), became a Christian in 1840s.

An American lawyer and jurist. Known as Harvard's Evangelist of Evidence.

Skeptic and Atheist.

Greenleaf, one of the principle founders of the Harvard Law School, originally set out to disprove the biblical testimony concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was certain that a careful examination of the internal witness of the Gospels would dispel all the myths at the heart of Christianity. He examined the four Gospels and reached a

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conclusion. This legal scholar came to the conclusion that the witnesses were reliable, and that the resurrection did in fact happen according to the facts presented.

Lee Strobel Born in 1952 (age 71)

Atheist turned Christian. Former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune. He is a former Professor of Christian Thought at Houston Baptist University and serves as a Teaching Pastor at Woodlands Church in Texas.

His wife got saved and his goal when he began his search for truth was to prove the resurrection did not happen. As a reporter on legal cases he knew how to examine evidence. One example he gave was a man who supposedly shot a policeman in the stomach. The evidence pointed to his guilt. He had gun powder on his hands, a spent shell in his gun and he confessed he shot the cop. The evidence and confession provided an open and shut case. But, the man was not guilty. One of his informants contacted Lee and told him the man was innocent. The detective had a pop gun in his pocket and it went off. The weapon was illegal even for policemen to carry. The informant told him the policeman had framed the man to protect his career. When Lee examined the evidence with the new information, he could now clearly see the theory of the policeman being a victim from his own gun. The man was declared innocent and the policeman was fired.

What you believe about four Gospels or the Bible depends on what you believe about its source.

If you examine the Gospels under the lens of the Holy Spirit, you will see the evidence more clearly.

Matthew and John were Apostles. Mark was a helper for Peter and Luke helped Paul.

Jesus told the Apostles three times in Mark he would die but then resurrect from the dead.

Mark 8:31-33, 9:30-32 and 10:32-34

[Mar 8:31-33 KJV] 31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and [of] the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. 33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying, Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.

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[Mar 9:30-32 KJV] 30 And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know [it]. 31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day. 32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.

[Mar 10:32-34 KJV] 32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, 33 [Saying], Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: 34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

[Luk 18:31-34 KJV] 31 Then he took [unto him] the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. 32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: 33 And they shall scourge [him], and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. **34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.**

In John 12:7-8, John 13:33, and John 14:25, Jesus hinted at his death.

Why would a person Lie to Die?

They were not convinced and did not act like they were convinced Jesus rose from the dead.

Why:

Did they not go on to Galilee?

Were they afraid and in hiding?

Were they so full of doubt?

Then the Light Came on!

3,000 were saved when Peter preached his first sermon.

Counting Paul, 11 of the 12 disciples were put to death.

These humble servants amazed the experts of the law by their wisdom.

We serve a risen Savior.

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[1Co 15:51-52 KJV] 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Communion

[1Co 11:27-30 KJV] 27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink [this] cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of [that] bread, and drink of [that] cup. 29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this cause many [are] weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

[1Co 11:23-26 KJV] 23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the [same] night in which he was betrayed took bread:

24 And when he had given thanks, he brake [it], and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

25 After the same manner also [he took] the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink [it], in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.