

A Matter Of Life And Death... And Life

Easter 2008

“If Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe... And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins.” 1 Corinthians 15:14,17 (GN)

“But the truth is that Christ has been raised from death.”
1 Corinthians 15:20 (GN)

Three Narratives Found In The Easter Message:

1. Everybody Needs A Savior.

“God has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of his Son, whom he loves. His Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven.”
Colossians 1:13-14 (GW)

“There’s nothing wrong with God; the wrong is in you.”
Isaiah 59:1 (Message)

Paul **“What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside.”**
1 Corinthians 5:12-13

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”
John 3:27 (ESV)

“But now God has shown us a different way to heaven – not by “being good enough”...but we all can be saved in this same way, by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we have been like.”
Romans 3:22-23 (Living Bible)

2. A Sacrifice Was Made For You.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

“Christ Jesus...had equal status with God but didn’t think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn’t claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.”

Philippians 2:5-8 (Message)

3. God Offers You His Gift Of Grace.

“God says He will accept us, acquit us, declare us not guilty for all the things we’ve done wrong in life if we trust Jesus Christ to take a way our sins and we can all be saved in this same way by coming to Christ, no matter who we are or what we’ve been like.”
Romans 3:21-22 (Living Bible)

Paul: **“I pray that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite Him in and that you will be able to feel and understand how long and wide and deep and high His love really is and to experience this love for yourselves.”**
Ephesians 3:18 (Living Bible)

“Don’t dwell on what happened long ago, watch the new things I’m going to do in your life.”
Isaiah 43:19

“Jesus included everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own. Anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start.”
2 Corinthians 5:15,17 (Message)

“God, who began the good work within you, will keep right on helping you grow in His grace until His task within you is finally finished.”
Philippians 1:6