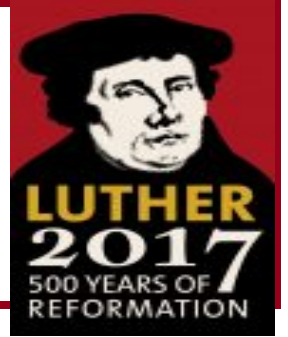


Easter Sunday

Matthew 28:1-10 Romans 1:1-6 Job 19:23-27

April 16, 2017

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Jesus rose from the dead on the third day!

The Bible teaches it, we confess it in the Creeds, and it's the **heart and core** of the Christian faith. *Jesus rose from the dead on the third day!* Those words "on the Third Day" are not just a phrase that is tacked on to the end of a sentence, but they are **an important theological distinction**. The "**Third Day**" teaches us that there was a **First Day** and a **Second Day**.

The "Third Day" is meant to remind you that the work of salvation was a **3-day sequence of events** that includes Christ's crucifixion, burial and resurrection. **The three-day sequence of events includes Passover (Good Friday), the Sabbath (Holy Saturday), and resurrection Sunday (Easter).**

The first day was Passover day, what we know as Good Friday, when Christ died for the sins of the world. He was the Passover Lamb of God who was sacrificed once and for all so that death "passes over" you! By His death, your sins are paid for and you are reconciled to God the Father!

The second day is the Sabbath Day. When Christ finished His work of salvation He **rested** in the tomb and fulfilled the commandment to **Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy**. In the tomb was not only Christ's dead body, but all of your sin and guilt were laid in that tomb with Him.

The third day is resurrection day, Easter Sunday, the day that the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, rose from the dead and gives life to the world!

This THREE-DAY SEQUENCE OF EVENTS is the cornerstone of the Christian faith! It is the first and chief doctrine of Holy Scripture! It is "**first importance**" in everything that we believe, teach, and confess!

TODAY WE PROCLAIM THE EASTER MESSAGE THAT

Jesus Christ has risen from the dead on the third day!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ teaches us the two key truths of salvation:

1. First, that **Jesus is the Son of God** who died for your sins, and
2. Second, in the resurrection, you are absolved of all sin!

Take a look at this passage:

The gospel was promised beforehand through God's prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding His Son, who as to His earthly life was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ROMANS 1:2-4

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God the Father publicly and powerfully identified Jesus as **Son of God!** The word picture in this passage is that God the Father "**circled Jesus**" as the Son of God in the resurrection; it's like God the Father had a **big red pen, circled Jesus**, and said, "**This One! He is my Son, the Savior of the World, and I proved it by raising Him from the dead!**". Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, Who came into the world to suffer and die for your sins!

This means then, that

Jesus is **not just** a **good man**,
He is **not just** a **good example**,
He is **not just** a **good teacher**,
He is **not just** a **miracle worker**.



*Jesus is the very Son of God,
the Second Person of the Holy Trinity,
who came into the world for us and our salvation.*

The Son of God came into the world to rescue you from sin and death. His own death on the cross **sets you free** from sin, guilt, and eternal death! The work of the Son of God was to save you, to rescue you from sin, to set you free from death!

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn you, but to save you. Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life!

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on the "Third Day", God the Father **circles** Jesus as His Son of God who has finished the work of salvation

on your behalf! The resurrection teaches us that Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the world!

The second major truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that you are declared “**not guilty**” of your sins in His resurrection. In the resurrection, God the Father **absolves** you of all sin!

Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our **justification**.
ROMANS 4:25

Jesus was raised for our justification. That’s means that you are “**righteous**” in God’s eyes. Justification and righteousness are legal terms that mean that **although you are caught “red-handed” in sin and stand guilty in God’s courtroom, God the Father declares you “not guilty!” and He sets you free. You are declared “not guilty!” because Jesus was declared “guilty” for you when He died on a cross.**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is God the Father accepting His Son’s sacrifice on the cross for you, and proclaiming the entire world “**not guilty**” of its sin. **This is good news! This is the Easter “Gospel!”** The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the good news of **absolution** for all people...including you! The entire world is declared “not guilty!” and forgiven! *Jesus was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

The sad truth though, is that most people *reject* God’s absolution. They don’t believe it.

- † Most people want nothing to do with Jesus or His righteousness.
- † Most people turn their backs on God the Father’s verdict of “not guilty!”
- † Most people reject, ridicule, or dismiss the Lord Jesus Christ, and His death and resurrection.

Don’t let that happen to you!

Don’t pass up this opportunity to believe the Easter Gospel!

Don’t throw away eternal salvation!

Humble yourself and repent!

Confess your sins to God, confess your rebellion and your immorality, confess your malice and wickedness to God. And then hear and believe the words of

absolution and forgiveness: that because of Jesus' death and resurrection, you are "not guilty!" of your sins and set free! You have been absolved! You are forgiven and will live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ calls forth faith in your heart. The message of the resurrection is so powerful that it creates faith; it creates the confident trust that these words are true and they apply to you. **Faith makes it personal.**
Do not reject the Easter Gospel --- But believe and trust this good news!

God the Father has declared **you, yes you**, "not guilty!" in the resurrection of Jesus Christ! **You, yes you**, are righteous in God's eyes! **You, yes you**, are absolved of all your sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!
Today believe it, and reap the benefits of eternal salvation!

Jesus' resurrection on the "**third day**" is the culmination of a three-day sequence of events that earned your salvation. Christ's death (*Passover*), His burial (*Sabbath*), and His resurrection (*Easter*) leads you to repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **God "circled" Jesus as the Son of God**, the Savior of the World, who came into the world for us and our salvation;

and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, God the Father **absolves you from all sin** and **publicly declares you righteous**, "**not guilty!**" of your sins, and sets you free to live as a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ!

*Today may you believe it for yourself ---
and live forever!*

Amen!