

Sunday, April 12, 2009—According to the Scriptures: What Easter Is Really All About

Introduction

- On this Easter Sunday we are once again reminded of the greatest miracle in human history the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Like Christmas there are many distractions that can cause to loose focus about what Easter is truly about.
- While we take this time to recall and reflect upon the cross work and resurrection of Jesus Christ every day of the believers life should truly be a celebration of Christ's resurrection.
- In this mornings message entitled, *According to the Scriptures: What Easter is Really All About*, we are going to break down the details of Paul's gospel and demonstrate how they encapsulate the Easter story as well as present to us a clearly what God has done on our behalf.
- I Corinthians 15:1-4—Paul identifies that contents of the gospel that he had preached to the Corinthians. At its core, Paul's gospel and therefore the message by which God is saving mankind today contains three essentials facts.
 - Christ died for our sins
 - Christ was buried in demonstration of his physical death
 - Christ rose again the third day
 - According to the Scriptures
- In other words the Scriptures testify, assert, and establish the core facts of the Gospel and it is our faith resting in these objective facts that saves us from eternal separate from God.
- Our goal this morning is to demonstrate how the Scriptures establish the three core facts of the gospel message.

Christ Died For Our Sins

- Isaiah 53:4-8—the prophetic Scriptures predict in advance that Jesus Christ would die and be stricken in payment for sin.
- Psalm 22:6-18—here again we see a prophetic statement about the evens surrounding the death of Christ.
- Matthew 27:26-50—the gospel writes: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John record the historical fulfillment of the prophetic utterances regarding the death of Jesus Christ.

- II Corinthians 5:21—it was on the cross that Jesus Christ was made sin for us.
- During this season of the year much is made about the physical beating that Jesus Christ received at the hands of his Roman executioners. However, to focus only on the physical aspects of Christ's death is to miss the great spiritual point.
- Jesus Christ literally became sin for us and shed his blood as a substitute for our own. That is why God the father turned his back on him while he hung on the cross.
- Galatians 3:13—Jesus Christ takes upon himself the curse of the law on our behalf so they we would not have to. When Christ hung on the cross and shed his blood he was literally made sin for us.
- Romans 8:4
- Romans 3:24-25—faith in Christ's shed blood is the real issue. Faith application of the blood of Christ to your own personal sin account is what is necessary for salvation and the forgiveness of sins.
- Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:14—are clear that the forgiveness of our sins is based upon the blood of Jesus Christ.
- I Corinthians 1:18-21—this is why Paul calls our message the preaching of the cross.

Christ Was Buried In Demonstration of His Physical Death

- Isaiah 53:9—prophets predicted Christ would be buried in a rich man's tomb.
- Psalm 16:10—upon his death Jesus to hell and stayed there for three days and three nights.
- Matthew 12:39-40—the sign of the prophet Jonah was the Jesus would spend three days and three nights in the heart of the earth just like Jonah.
- Jonah 2:2—says that Jonah cried to God out of the belly of hell.
- Matthew 27:57-66—Jesus is buried proving that Joseph of Arimathaea, the disciples, Pilate, and the Jewish leadership all believed that Jesus was dead.

Christ Rose Again the Third Day

- John 2:19-22—Jesus foretells of his own resurrection.
- Acts 2:30-32—Peter makes application of Psalm 16:10 not only to Christ's burial but also to Christ's resurrection.
- Matthew 28:1-15—the grave is found empty and the Roman soldiers are paid by the Jewish leadership to say that the disciples stole the body.
- I Corinthians 15:12-19—all of Christianity rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Either the resurrection of Jesus is greatest miracle of history or it is the biggest hoax ever perpetrated against the human race.

Skeptical Theories About the Resurrection

- I Corinthians 15:5-8—Paul appeals to the Corinthians to check out what He is saying against outside sources.
- Gary Habermas wrote a book entitled *The Risen Jesus and Future Hope*. The book investigates to date what scholars believe about the resurrection.
- Habermas reports that virtually all scholars from across the ideological spectrum—from ultra-liberals to Bible-thumping conservatives—agree that the following points concerning Jesus and Christianity are actual historical facts.
- 12 Agreed Upon Facts—*See PowerPoint for Notes*
- Skeptical Theories About the Resurrection—*See PowerPoint Notes*

Conclusion

- Explanations for the Empty Tomb—*See PowerPoint Notes*
- Romans 4:25—all three of our facts are necessary to accomplish our total forgiveness and give us a standing in total and complete righteous in Jesus Christ.