

Rebellious at Easter

I. Introduction

A. Jesus is risen- He is risen indeed

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Rom 12:2
For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁴And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. I Cor 15:13&20

B. Jesus resurrection defeats the dread and the power of death-

1. The physical death rate is 100%

"Someday you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God."

Billie Graham (adapting a quote from D. L. Moody)

He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." ⁴³And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." Lk 23:42

2. That after death there will be justice and a judgment-

Just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment. Heb 9:27

C. The good news of Jesus-

This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸"There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. Jn 3:16

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. I Jn 1:8

https://store.rightnow.org/Products/Downloadable_Video_Illustrations/1360/What_Comes_to_Your_Mind_When_You_Think_of_the_Cross_

II. Options to the good news of Jesus Christ-

A. Reject Jesus-

If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. ⁴Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. II Cor 4:3

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. I Cor 1:18

B. Follow Jesus-

Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ²⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. Mat 16:24

C. Object evidence for Jesus and His resurrection from the dead-

You must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁸But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. I Pet 3:15

"Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe! ²⁸"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. Jn 20:26

1. Prophecy-

<http://www1.cbn.com/biblestudy/biblical-prophecies-fulfilled-by-jesus>

He was despised and rejected— a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. ⁶All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. Isa 53:3

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help? ²Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief. Ps 22:1

at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Mk 15:34

2. Eye witnesses of the resurrection-

⁴He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. ⁵He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. ⁶After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. ⁹For I am the least of all the apostles. I Cor 15:3

III. The events of Jesus' death and resurrection-

A. Passover week in Jerusalem-

1. Fulfillment of the Jewish feast of Passover-

on the tenth day of this month each family must choose a lamb or a young goat for a sacrifice, one animal for each

household. ⁵The animal you select must be a one-year-old male, either a sheep or a goat, with no defects. ⁶"Take special care of this chosen animal until the evening of the fourteenth day of this first month. Ex 12:2

B. God's plan for the world-

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. Eph 1:4

1. God is the sovereign ruler of the world-

When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Rom 5:6&8

2. Jesus lived in the center of God's will for Him-

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Phil 2:6

Jesus left them a second time and prayed, "My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done. Mat 26:42

"Put away your sword," Jesus told him. "Those who use the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly? Mat 26:52

3. Jesus was in control of the events at the cross-

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." Lk 23:34

Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." ²⁷And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home. Jn 19:2

1. On the cross Jesus prayed for those who crucified Him

2. During this time God showed His presence

3. When His mission of love was finished Jesus died-

Jesus knew that his mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture he said, "I am thirsty." A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Jn 19:28

C. Jesus victory over death-

The angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He isn't here! He is risen from the dead. Mat 28:8

God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Phil 2:9

IV. Experience Easter-

You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. Col 2:13

He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. I Pet 2:24

1. Two truths collide at the cross of Jesus Christ

2. Jesus invitation to follow Him is clear

The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. Rom 8:1