

Easter Service 2012

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I Corinthians 15:14,17-19 – **14** And if Christ has not been resurrected, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. **17** And if Christ has not been resurrected, your faith is futile; you are still lost in your sins. **18** Then those also who have died believing in Christ are then lost also. **19** If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.

All of Christianity hangs on the validity of the resurrection.

Why did Jesus have to die and what is the significance of the resurrection?

God created this world for His man to enjoy and now His enemy rules His creation. (*II COR 4:4*)

One of the first recorded promises God made in the Bible was made to Satan, "I will redeem mankind from your authority."

Genesis 3:15 – "I will set a feud between you and the woman, between her seed and yours. Her seed shall bruise your head or remove your authority, but you shall bruise his heel."

From this point on Satan tries to kill every righteous man:

- Cain kills righteous Abel
- Pharaoh tries to kill every man-child of Israel and Moses
- Jezebel tries to kill the prophet Elijah
- Saul tries to kill David who was "anointed" to be King
- Herod kills the "anointed" prophet John the Baptist
- Every child in Israel under the age of 2, during Jesus' life

I Corinthians 2:7-8 – **7** But we now speak of a wisdom which comes from God and was once a covered secret, but now uncovered – which God planned before the world began in order to bring us into glory. **8** Concerning this secret, none of the princes (demons) of this world or Satan knew about it, for had they known it, *they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory.*

The Scriptures reveal Jesus as both the Lamb of God and the High Priest who would offer the lamb's blood for the sins of the people.

John1:29 – Behold the LAMB OF GOD, which takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus is revealed as the One who will remove the authority from Satan.

Mark 1:9-11 – **9** And it came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized of John in the Jordan. **10** And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him. **11** And there came a Voice from heaven, saying, "YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED."

Satan now knows this is the One who God promised would remove his authority over man.

After Jesus' first sermon, Satan inspires the people to kill Him but He passes through the midst of them.

Throughout His 3-year public ministry, they were constantly planning a way to have Him killed.

No one took His life, He gave it!

John 18:4-6 – Jesus therefore knowing all things that should come upon Him went forth and said to them, "Who do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I AM." 6 As soon as He had said unto them "I AM," they went over backward and fell to the ground.

Jesus was showing that no man was taking His life from Him but He was willfully laying it down.

He became the "Innocent Sacrificial Lamb of God."

He *became* "The Scape Goat" - Laying hands on the goat to transfer the sin.

He became the sacrifice for the sin of the whole world.

The High Priest of God offered the Lamb of God upon the altar of the Cross. (Let His blood be upon us.)

John 20:10-17 – 10 Then the disciples went back to their homes, 11 but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb 12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. 13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put Him." 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. 15 "Woman," He said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking He was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher.) 17 Jesus said to her, "**Don't touch me**, for I **have not yet ascended to My Father**; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'"

What did Jesus do when He ascended to the Father?

Hebrews 9:11-12 – 11 So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that great, perfect sanctuary in heaven, not made by human hands and not part of this created world. 12 Once for all time **He took blood** into that Most Holy Place, but not the blood of goats and calves. **He took His own blood**, and with it He **secured our salvation forever**.

This Easter, what will you do with Jesus and His love revealed through His death, burial, resurrection, and offering up of His blood to pay for your sins?