

Easter Service

Matthew 16:24-27

Handout April 7, 2023

Wow, what a beautiful thing. The story of the Resurrected Christ - the Messiah - our Savior. Come May, I will have been doing this for 18 years and the stories of Jesus never get old to me. They always remind me of who I should be, who I can be, who we all can be!

The crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus - that's what Easter is all about. The Passover.

1) God has _____ over your sins.

Just as the blood of the lamb in Exodus allowed the Israelites to be passed over, the blood of Jesus gives us the same. The Passover has always been a shadow of what Jesus would do for us.

John the Baptist said *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

But in reading the story we learn the most important fact.

2) Jesus is _____.

If we put our trust --- our faith --- in that, what does it benefit us? We receive salvation!

Romans 10:8-10 *'But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.'*

Wow!

Okay - did that! All good. Am I done? No - No - No.

The Easter story means so much more --- it means you will get resurrected. This has been the story for four thousand years. When Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, he believed in the resurrection. Yet God, speaking prophetically said -

3) I will provide _____ a sacrifice!

People have been saved by Jesus and through Jesus forever!

You will also be resurrected. Literally, Figuratively & Spiritually!

Romans 6:1-11

4) You share in the _____ today!

===== Get Baptized =====

It doesn't save you. It doesn't seal you. It identifies you with Christ's death and resurrection.

Paul said in **Philippians 1:21** *'For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.'* (Also see **Galatians 2:20**)

Here he is talking a physical death --- to go and be with the Lord until the resurrection of believers --- but there is more. Jesus said in

Matthew 16:24-27 *'Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.'*

- Take up your cross
- Die to yourself (Lose your life)
- Gain your life (Spiritually Resurrected)

I gave a testimony of my poor behavior in Michigan --- my turnaround and my subsequent blessings. I even ended up working for MDot! I was resurrected in the NOW.

5) You can _____ your life _____!

Philippians 3:7-14

Paul said, *I only want to know His power, His resurrection, His sufferings -- being conformed.*

Laying down his life, taking up his cross, until ultimately the resurrection of the dead.

That is NOW.

6) Stop _____ bad behaviors!

You know what you are doing. Knock it off!

Let today be the day you accept Christ --- or renew your commitment. Today. Be resurrected in Christ.

This is what Easter / Passover is about.

7) Jesus didn't _____ for _____!

He died for you!

Pray with me. Get baptized. Live for Christ.