

## What Christianity is All About: For Your Past, Your Present, and Your Future

*In the name of our risen and living, not-in-the-tomb, Savior Jesus Christ.*

- Every Easter, but want to hear again: ancient Easter greeting. Love it! Risen from dead! What Easter is all about; really, what Christianity is all about! Res of Jesus Christ from dead is central doctrine of Christianity; foundation of our faith. Without res, our entire religion crumbles apart. But today we're filled with joy, praise God because: greeting. That is what Christianity is all about.
- Maybe some lifelong Christians; believed as long as alive. So whole life revolves around Easter. Maybe some do not come from Christian background or are perhaps just beginning to see Jesus as Savior. Maybe some grew up Christian, but don't come to church very often; today figured, "Easter; better go." Regardless of where you're at in faith or what brought you to church today, what I want you to understand: res of Jesus Christ from dead on Easter Sunday morning is what Christianity is all about: for past, present, and future.

### *For Your Past*

- Res what all about for past. We all have past. Lot of times use word, mean bad things did in past, things we're ashamed of, regret, wish we could take back because know they were wrong. Those called sin – things we've done God didn't want us to do: sin. That past not makes us guilty, also impacts present and future, because every day we continue to do what God doesn't want us to do.
- But go back further into past, way before you were born, to creation of world, when God made perfect world for Adam and Eve. But they listened to devil and ruined it. So in past, long time ago, God promised to make things right again; promised to send someone who would right the wrong, take away world's sin, defeat devil forever. On Easter, that promise became reality. 2000 years ago, on first GF, Jesus shed blood on cross to take away all our sins, and three days later on Easter came back to life again! His body was raised as proof that God kept his promise to right the wrong and take away sin. It's a historical fact of past: Christ rose from dead; what all about.
- For your past: in past you sinned; but in past God loved you; so in past God sent Jesus to die and rise to save you. Means: all sins you've committed in past (even sins you'll commit in future), all taken away. Called forgiveness. God has forgiven you of everything, because Jesus rose. What all about.

### *For Your Present*

- Res what all about for present. Right now in present, even with our sins forgiven, still have lot of problems to deal with, troubles we face day to day basis. I know even today, on day of great happiness and rejoicing, lot of you hurting, sad. Some dealing with death of family member or someone close to you, someone suddenly taken from you. Some dealing with a divorce that's tearing family and heart apart. Some facing financial frustrations, leaving feeling discouraged. Some staring down disease that just won't go away. Some feeling very hurt by people who make fun of you; not very popular among peers; people like to laugh at, mock you – it hurts! Doesn't matter who you are – every one of us here have lot of troubles we face day to day basis.
- But res what all about for present because res means Jesus is always with us. Always with you. Don't mean in pithy, abstract way: when we remember, in sense it's like he's with us. Don't mean in transcendent way either: with whole world, but from throne in heaven, quite a ways away. I mean right now, every single day (in present), resurrected, living Lord Jesus steps into your life, puts arm around shoulder, and walks with you. Never leaves you alone, never forsakes you. WITH you, in power and love. With his power Jesus created world, calmed storms, fed thousands, came back to life. And with power now (in present) he protects body and soul, guides your journey through life. With his love Jesus bled for you, died for you, saved you from hell. With his love now (in present) he

strengthens you, helps you through day to day troubles you face. With you, in power and love: whether dealing with death, divorce, financial problems, disease, mockery – whatever it is, you are not alone. Jesus with you, right now, every day – he’s alive – what Christianity all about for present.

#### *For Your Future*

- Res what all about for future. Jesus teaches us that everyone who believes in him as their Savior, when they die, go to be with Jesus forever in heaven. And not because of good works or godly life – God knows we all fall short of his perfect standard. But reason heaven is our future home is because Jesus rose from dead. If no res, things different. If no res, our entire lives spent racing on freeway at 100 mph for front door of hell. If no res, we should be scared to death of death, because then Satan finally gets us.
- But today we celebrate fact (not myth or legend) that Jesus rose from dead and someday we will rise from dead. Someday we will go to heaven and feel warm embrace of living Lord Jesus.
- Maybe not today (maybe, but maybe not). Maybe life stinks right now, but will get better. Maybe heart is breaking right now, but will get better. Maybe tears of sadness are clouding your vision of your eternal future; that’s okay; shut your eyes and look with the eyes of faith, because when you do that, you will see your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ living and reigning with Father and HS in heaven, where someday you will live, as well. That’s what Christianity is all about for your future.

#### *Conclusion*

- Today, we celebrate central doctrine of Christian faith: that our Savior is not dead but alive. That has implications for our past (where we see God’s plan to forgive our sins); impl for present (because we know Jesus is always with us in power and love); impl for future (eternal life with Jesus in heaven). All because on first Easter Sunday morning, saw stone rolled away, looked inside tomb, that baby was empty. Angels: **“He is not here; he has risen!” (Lk 24:6a)**. That’s what Easter, Christianity is all about. Amen.