

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. ²There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." ⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

I. The Assurance of Easter

Evidences of the Resurrection

A. Scripture predicted the _____.

Psalms 16:10

...because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

Matthew 12:39-40

He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

B. The _____ of the first _____.

1. The courage of the _____.

2. The changed life of his _____.

- The _____ of Jesus Christ _____ him from every other religious figure in the world.
- _____ comes in the settled conviction that Christ _____ from the grave.

II. The Authority of Easter

Romans 1:4

...and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Avenues of Authority

A. _____ of the majority

- The fault of trusting the _____ is that many times the crowd has been dead _____.

B. Individual _____

- The problem with trusting my _____ is its _____: like a computer, it gives back what I put into it.

C. Qualified _____

- The problem with trusting the _____ is that you can always find someone to agree with any kind of _____ that you want to indulge in.

D. Risen _____

- Christ's _____ gives him his stamp of approval as absolute _____.

I Corinthians 15: 17, 20-22

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

²¹For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

²²For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

- _____ comes in the settled conviction that Christ has authority over our _____.

- Maximum _____ comes in surrendering the authority of our _____ to Christ.

The direction of your life will ultimately and eternally be determined by who has the authority in your life.

III. The Announcement of Easter

The Announcement of Hope

Saturday, March 21
Sunday, March 22, 2008

I Corinthians 15:3-6

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Easter brings the hope of: | |
| • Forgiveness | • Provision |
| • Peace | • Presence |
| • Assurance | • Seeing our loved ones again |
| • Heaven | |

A. The process of _____

1. Jesus has _____ for our sins.

- Jesus _____ our death so that we could _____ his life.

2. Jesus has _____ our sin.

Isaiah 53:9

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Jeremiah 31:4

I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel. Again you will take up your tambourines and go out to dance with the joyful.

The Hope of Easter is that Jesus not only went to the cross for you...He went to the tomb for you. He not only took your place on the cross...He took your place in that tomb!

3. Jesus _____ over our sin.

- Jesus was _____, not resuscitated, so that we might _____ eternal.
- Salvation occurs when we believe _____ not merely _____ Jesus died and rose again.

