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# First Baptist Dyersburg • Sermon Notes

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## Why Do We Celebrate Easter?

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026 • Mike Hickman, Senior Pastor

**We celebrate Easter because the resurrection of Jesus**

**Christ from the dead was a \_\_\_\_\_ event with**

**many witnesses who testify that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_!**

### *The Resurrection*

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. <sup>7</sup> And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”

<sup>8</sup> The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. <sup>9</sup> And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.”

### *The Report of the Guard*

<sup>11</sup> As the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the leading priests what had happened. <sup>12</sup> A meeting with the elders was called, and they decided to give the soldiers a large bribe. <sup>13</sup> They told the soldiers, “You must say, ‘Jesus’ disciples came during the night while we were sleeping, and they stole his body.’ <sup>14</sup> If the governor hears about it, we’ll stand up for you so you won’t get in trouble.” <sup>15</sup> So the guards accepted the bribe and said what they were told to say. Their story spread widely among the Jews, and they still tell it today. (Matthew 28:1-15)

<sup>3</sup> I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>4</sup> He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said. <sup>5</sup> He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup> After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup> Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as though I had been born at the wrong time, I also saw him. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of all the apostles. In fact, I'm not even worthy to be called an apostle after the way I persecuted God's church. (1 Corinthians 15:3-9, NLT)

**We celebrate Easter because Jesus paid the ultimate price to \_\_\_\_\_ us by sacrificing Himself on the cross for our sins.**

<sup>3</sup> May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. <sup>4</sup> Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live. <sup>5</sup> All glory to God forever and ever! Amen. (Galatians 1:3-4, NLT)

<sup>6</sup> When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. <sup>7</sup> Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. <sup>8</sup> But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. <sup>9</sup> And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. <sup>10</sup> For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. <sup>11</sup> So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God. (Romans 5:6-11, NLT)

**We celebrate Easter because Jesus is able to give us \_\_\_\_\_ life because He was raised from the dead.**

<sup>12</sup> But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup> For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. <sup>14</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. <sup>15</sup> And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can't be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. <sup>16</sup> And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised.

<sup>17</sup> And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. <sup>18</sup> In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! <sup>19</sup> And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.

<sup>20</sup> But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

<sup>21</sup> So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.

<sup>22</sup> Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. <sup>23</sup> But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. (1 Corinthians 15:12-23, NLT)

<sup>14</sup> We know that God, who raised the Lord Jesus, will also raise us with Jesus and present us to himself together with you. <sup>15</sup> All of this is for your benefit. And as God's grace reaches more and more people, there will be great thanksgiving, and God will receive more and more glory.

<sup>16</sup> That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. <sup>17</sup> For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! <sup>18</sup> So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

### *New Bodies*

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. <sup>2</sup> We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. <sup>3</sup> For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. (2 Corinthians 4:14-5:3, NLT)

**As we celebrate Easter, we acknowledge that we are saved by \_\_\_\_\_ and not by \_\_\_\_\_.**

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. <sup>2</sup> You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup> All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

<sup>4</sup> But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, <sup>5</sup> that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have

been saved!) <sup>6</sup>For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup>So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup>Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup>For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. (Ephesians 2:1-10, NLT)

## **The apostle Paul gives us clear instructions in how to be saved:**

<sup>9</sup>If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. <sup>11</sup>As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." <sup>12</sup>Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved." (Romans 10:9-13, NLT)

**Thanks be to God that we can celebrate JESUS this Easter.....**for all that He has done for us on the cross and in His resurrection; for all that He is doing through our salvation and through the Holy Spirit who is at work in us giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases Him; and for what He will do for us in the future when He brings us home to be with Him for all eternity!

**HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!!**

***Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. <sup>25</sup>All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen. (Jude 24-25, NLT)***