

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

Easter is only two weeks away. There really doesn't seem to be much said about this holiday in the public square. It is almost like it really doesn't exist.

When I was young our school had a full week for "Easter Vacation." It was an important holiday. But now, our school only has one day off on Good Friday. Some schools do have a week's vacation but it is called "Spring Break," not "Easter Vacation."

But what concerns me much more is general apathy toward Easter. It seems Easter has become just another "long weekend."

The truth is that Easter is the most important Christian holiday of the year. It is the celebration of the greatest demonstration of God's power on Earth. The apostle Paul writes under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know... his [God's] incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...." (Ephesians 1:18-20).

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the confirmation of His sinless life, His victory over sin and death for us, and judgment of the devil and all the devil's followers. If Jesus were not sinless, He would not have been able to be raised from the dead because He would be under the penalty of death, just as we are. Thus, because He rose from the dead confirming the truth that He lived a sinless life, He was able to take upon Himself our penalty for our sin—the penalty of death—and to die for us in our place for our sin. And by rising from the dead, He overcame sin, death and the devil, and condemned them to the hell that God has prepared for them.

The fact that Jesus rose from the grave also proves that there is life after death. Death does not end everything as some people think. It then stands to reason that, because of this truth, the most important decision we will ever make in our life is, "What will we do about Jesus?" I hope that this Easter will be a highlight in your life as you celebrate Jesus as your risen Savior.