

We were able to have a drive in Easter Egg Hunt for the high rolls community yesterday. Thanks for those who helped. It was great to see kids from the community and let them know we care and that Jesus loves them.

Lenette found a handwritten poem in her mother's bible. Grace was well know for her encouraging words. We dont know the origin of this poems, but its as if it for us at this time.

For every burden that we bear,  
For every sorrow every care,  
Theres a reason.

For every grief that bows the head,  
For every tear-drop that is shed,  
There's a reason.

For every hurt, for every plight,  
For every lonely pain racked night,  
There's a reason.

But if we trust God as we should,  
All must work on for our good,  
He knows the reason.

Easter is a time when we not only recognize the resurrection of Jesus, but also keep our focus on the reality of the empty tomb. Even the most skeptical, cynical and unbelieving historians, philosophers and theologians agree that a man named Jesus died on a Roman cross on Friday and was later buried in a tomb that was empty on Sunday morning. They also agree that countless individuals, both men and women, testified that they saw Jesus alive on multiple occasions after He had died, included among whom were James, his half-brother, who initially did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, but later came to faith. The question for all such unbelievers is this: What is the best explanation of how the tomb came to be empty? There is no evidence anywhere in the ancient world that anyone disputed that the tomb was empty on Sunday morning, not even those who crucified Jesus. And they were the ones who stood most to gain by simply hauling out the body of Jesus, pointing to it, confirming His identity and forever putting Christianity in the grave as well. But they didn't.

Theres some things in life that seem pretty obvious and other things evidently not so much.

Like some of these warnings signs/labels  
Caution fire is hot  
Do not use while sleeping. ...  
Never use a lit match or open flame to check fuel level.  
Do not hold the wrong end of the chainsaw.

There are things that seems obvious to some people, but leaves others clueless.

What makes people celebrate Easter the way they do? "Why do you make such a big deal out of this belief in the resurrection?"

I will tell you why, If Jesus Christ really rose from that tomb, and I believe He did, it means we don't have a dead religion, we have a living hope.

Jesus loves prostitutes, Jesus loves murderers, Jesus loves atheists, Jesus loves agnostics, Jesus loves broken people, Jesus loves traitors. And today I want to say Jesus loves you. He loves you personally. Jesus loves you.

Now, to some people that's just obvious, but to others not so much.

John 3:16

The most famous verse in all of the Bible. Probably the most quoted, The Bible in a nutshell. The Gospel. This verse is on the bottom of cups at In-N-Out Burger.

You know the verse. Most of you know it by heart.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life."

Let me ask you a question: If you had to describe Easter, and instead using words you had to use a punctuation mark, I wonder which one you would choose?

Would you use a comma? Think about it, pause, and then you move on?

Or would it be a period. You are not really expecting or waiting for anything else to happen. It's just an empty ceremony. Something you do once a year.

Or would you have to choose a question mark. You can see that other people are sure about it, but you're not so sure. So you would describe Easter as a question mark.

But for a lot of us, Easter is an exclamation point. We are sure that Jesus Christ is alive and He lives in us and we are different, we are transformed because of it.

You understand, you believe that God loved the world and that God loves you.

And as we look at this one single verse, the most famous verse in all of the Bible, we discover God's plan, his plan for people summed up in this verse. This is God's plan to rescue you, remember there was never a plan B. This is God's plan to rescue you and to give you hope and life.

As we looked at the origin of this plan, last week, It began with God before the foundation of the world.

"For God so loved the world." It all begins with God. He didn't leave that up to us to find, God revealed himself to people. It says in the Bible in First John, chapter 4, "We love Him because He first loved us."

And it was always His plan to come and to rescue you. The Bible tells us in the very beginning after Adam sinned that he was hiding from God, and God who called out and said, "Adam, where are you?"

Man hiding and God searching. He's the one who was looking for you. I've heard people say, "I'm searching for God. I want to find God."

God is not lost, you are. He's the one looking for you.

The Bible says, "All of us like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned, every one of us, to our own way."

And then the Bible says that we are "dead in our trespasses and our sins." And we "walked according to the ways of this world . . . But God, who is rich in mercy . . . he has made us alive."

The last time I checked, dead people can't do anything to help themselves. We were dead in trespasses, dead in sins, but it was God who began this plan.

"For God." It began with Him.

The second thing is the motivation of God: "For God so loved the world." Think on that a minute.

"For God so loved the world." He so loved me, He so loved you. We are so loved.

Not "For God was so angry at the world that he sent his Son to come to destroy it." It says, "God so loved the world."

His motivation is clear and that is the essence of the nature of God. As Pastor Billy said (the essence of forgiveness begins before the offense occurs) The Bible says in First John, "God is love." Not only is God love, God is also just. Which means He will judge sin in the end. We now that from our recent study about the second resurrection in revelation.

The very essence of God is that God is love. Easy for us say, but it is more difficult to fully understand what that means and to really believe it. Most of us have sung songs about the love of God especially as kids. But so often as we become adults, we begin to question "is it really true." "Does God really love me?"

One of the greatest truths we need to understand. "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

Thats the truth! "Jesus loves me." Who wrote John 3:16, if you said John thats right.

That's obvious. John wrote it and later on John also wrote, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us," or put another way "What kind of foreign love is this that God would love us?" God's love is so different from our love: God's love and our love are on completely different levels.

Human love is object oriented, generally based on the worth of the object.

I look at something "Wow, I like that. I like the colors. I like that shape. That thing pleases me or it could apply to another person. Ohh, I like that person."

It's based on what I see, that I like. God's love is not that way. It is based on God Himself. It's based on His character.

Why should God love you? Can you tell me the reasons, why? I can't think of any reasons God should love me, on the contrary I can think of a lot of reasons why God shouldn't love me.

But Love is His nature. "God so loved the world." And almost every time the love of God is mentioned in the New Testament, it is in reference to the cross of Jesus Christ.

Because the love of God was fully demonstrated for me, Because the love of God was fully demonstrated for you. When God allowed Jesus to come down here and die on a cross. Paul said, "God demonstrated His love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

So, God's plan: "For God," that's where it started, it started with God "so loved," that's the motivation, that's the reason. Here's the destination: "God so loved the world," the world. "God so loved the world." That includes you, that includes me, we are part of the world.

A part of the world that God loves. God loves you. No matter what country you are from, doesn't matter what race you are, doesn't matter your political association, doesn't matter how if you have a lot or a little, it doesn't matter if you will choose Him or reject Him.

When these words were spoken, "God so loved the world." It was during a conversation between Jesus and a man by the name of Nicodemus.

They were having a deep spiritual conversation at night.

Nicodemus this Jewish leader who believed that God only loved good Jewish people. And Jesus sets him straight, "For God so loved the world."

Until you that Easter "Resurrection Day" includes you, it will be just a comma to you, or it will be a period to you, or it will be a question mark to you. It includes you. I want you to understand that.

That's why Jesus said to his disciples, go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. The treatment for a disease works no matter where you give that treatment.

If you have heart disease, it doesn't matter where in the world, you live. The same medicine works in Turkey, Britain, Russia or America. It works universally.

We can apply that to God's cure for man's sin. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."

Aren't you glad it doesn't say "For God so loved only good people"? We would all be in trouble, that would mean that God's love depends on our behavior, so that wouldn't be very comforting.

Or what if God's love was more like our love.

"Ok, I like you today, but I don't really love you." "Maybe tomorrow I will love you"

Or "I'm not really sure if I love anyone right now."

To often our love is based on our mood.

But that's not so with God, God's love is always consistent. It is never selective and it always includes everyone.

God loves you, and you can't do anything to change that, you can however change how you experience His Love.

Our mornings have been a little cool lately, and as the sun comes up and begins to warm things up, it feels pretty good.

You can't stop the sun from shining, but you can stop the sun from shining on you. You can decide to walk under tree, or under a porch, go inside, put a hat, so that you don't experience the full power and beauty of the sun, and it's that way with God's love.

You can get under the porch of sin or doubt or selfishness, and though God is loving you, you are not experiencing God's love for you.

Next we see another obvious truth, the demonstration of God's plan: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." Now, that's real giving. Real love is never be passive; it is always active.

We see that in healthy marriages, giving, time, energy, and love for each another.

When a couple stops giving to one another, the marriage will deteriorate.

"For God so loved that He gave." His love was active; it was not passive.

And it was more than just giving, God gave Someone. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." God gave the very best He Had. When God wanted to fix the world, He didn't go to the lowest bidder, He paid the highest price.

He sent his only begotten Son.  
'Only begotten'?

What does that mean?  
'Only begotten Son'?"

Another translation: "His one and only," or "His most unique Son," or "One who has no equal."

So, Jesus Christ was the only unique Son of God. Jesus Christ was God in human flesh.

When God the Father gave Jesus Christ, He gave Himself. And there's no greater gift you can give someone than to give yourself.

God gave Himself. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." So, we have the origin, the beginning: "For God";  
We have the motivation, "so loved";  
We have the destination, the target audience, "the world";  
We have the demonstration, the action, "that He gave His only begotten Son."

And now the invitation, it says, "that whosoever believes in Him."

Who is salvation offered to? "whoever," "whosoever." God isn't picky, Look that's obvious right? He picked me. I still am amazed at that. God will take whoever.

To the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give will never thirst."

In Revelation 21 the invitation is "Whoever is thirsty, let him come. Whoever wishes, let him drink freely of the water of life."

You know, there are some places you can't go because they're exclusive. They won't let you in. You have to be a member. You have to pay a bunch of money, or you have to make a certain amount of money. You know it's easier to get into heaven than it is to a country club.

All you have to do is believe---believe in your heart. The invitation is, "Whoever," whoever will say yes, whoever will say, "This is for me," whoever will say, "I asked Jesus to be my Savior," "whosoever."

The invitation is to "whoever," but there's a qualification: "Whoever believes in Him." Now just think about this for a moment: you need to believe in Jesus Christ. He loves you, he demonstrated his love for you, but you must believe in him. God never says, "If you want to come to me, you must first clean up your life and prove yourself worthy." You couldn't do that if you tried. And that's why it's called the gospel, the good news, because you're not required to get cleaned up first. The requirement is you have to believe.

You might reason that I've always believed. I've gone to church my whole life. I've always believed in God. I believe that God exists." But James tells us that you believe in God that's good, but he goes on to say even the devil believes in God---and trembles."

You see, when you say you believe in God, I hope you mean you believe in God the way the Bible describes belief.

It means to rely on Him, to trust completely in Him, to place all of your weight on Him. You know, it's one thing to be impressed with a parachute, what it can do or watch someone else descend out of the sky under its canopy; it's quite another thing to put that parachute on and jump out of the airplane.

Do you believe, do you trust, are you putting everything on the line for what He did for you.

If you really say you believe, let's see it in your life.

Let finish up this morning with that last part of the verse.

We've looked at the origin, "For God";  
the motivation, "so loved"; the destination, "the world";  
the demonstration, "that He gave His only begotten Son";  
the invitation, "that whoever";  
the qualification, "believes in him."

And finally the ramification. Here's the result:  
"that he should not perish but have everlasting life."

Folks, this is why Easter "Resurrection Day" is so important, and this is why the resurrection is celebrated the way it is, because it gives us hope that we can live forever with God.

Since the guy who said, "I am the resurrection and the life," died and come back to life. That changes everything. He said He could and He did."

I'm here to tell you, you do not have to fear death. Jesus went there and he came back alive promising you and I everlasting life.

Jesus perished, so that you and I would not have to perish. He died, so that we wouldn't have to die. "Whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life."

But there's another side. If believing keeps you from perishing, then not believing means that you will perish. If you trust in the God who loves you, you will never perish.

If you believe that your sins were paid for on the cross, and you trust Him and you give Him your life, you will never perish.

That means heaven. But if you don't trust in Him, if you don't rely on Him, to you it's only a comma or a period or a question mark, it's not real, it's not personal.

Unbelief will destroy the best of us,  
Believing will save the worst of us,

All of us can know the same hope of the risen Savior.

Jesus loves you . . . and you . . . and you, yes you in the pajamas.

He loves all of us. He loves the crazy preacher. He loves you and he wants to spend forever with you. But he'll never force himself on you. It is offered as a gift.

And today I'm going to give you an opportunity to receive that gift.

Are you sure, are you absolutely certain that if you were to die today, are you sure that you would be before God in heaven forever?

"Well, I'm pretty sure. I think so. I hope so," that's the wrong answer, because it indicates that you are trusting yourself, your goodness, your religion, your intellect.

You have to be able to say, "I know that I know, not because of me, because of what Jesus did for me on that cross."

Again Unbelief will destroy the best of us,  
believing will save the worst of us, and  
And all of us get to make that choice.

Father, as we close this service and we consider who we are before You. The Creator You're the sustainer of everything around us.

Including this beautiful day we are enjoying right now. In this beautiful place. I think for those of us that believe in you as Creator, it is even more beautiful. You have given us physical, but there is a promise of everlasting life with You for whoever believes in him.

For those, who don't know you personally, draw them to You. For those, who have wondered away from you, bring them home, for those just playing church, change their perspective, bring them to an exclamation point as they believe and trust in the One that you have given, in Jesus' name, amen.

You're here on this earth for a reason. Ever stop to ask yourself, "Why am I here? What is the meaning of life and what is the purpose of my life?"

Maybe you've asked that question. You can have the question answered today, because today you can make a choice. Right now you have the power to choose.

But theres coming day when your life will be over, and you will no longer have that power it will be gone. God loves you enough to give you the choice.

He wants you to go to heaven, but He will never force you to be, where you don't want to be.

If you don't want to be in heaven forever with Him, you don't have to, but He wants you to be. He has done it all and He made every provision for you to be.

For God so loved you that He gave his only begotten Son for you, that if you believe in Him, you will not perish, you will have everlasting life.

Please hear me It's a gift. It's a free gift to you. its a gift you can never earn, you will never have enough of anything pay for it, but He'll give it to you for free.

Today is your day. He wants you in His number. Whoever will, let him come and drink of the waters of life freely.

The Lord loves each and every one of you. And God has a plan for you.

Theres some things in life that seem pretty obvious and other things evidently not so much.

Hopefully this message has made it obvious to you that trusting in Jesus is the obvious choice.

Happy Resurrection Day! Join me on Wednesday at 6 on facebook live for our weekly prayer meeting.

Services are being posted on [trinityhighrolls.org](http://trinityhighrolls.org)

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Please continue to send me music or a word of encouragement to share with our fellowship.