

## The Foolishness of Easter

Series: Living with Less

**1 Corinthians 1:18**

April 1, 2018

Today is April Fool's Day and it's also Easter.

It has been said that April Fool's day is the Holiday for Atheist!

And Easter is Resurrection Day, where Christian Believer's gather together all over the world to celebrate Jesus Christ raising from the dead!

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

When man elevates his own wisdom he automatically attempts to lower God's wisdom, which looks to him like foolishness, because it conflicts with his own thinking.

Here we see that Non-Believers view "The message of the cross" as Foolishness!

The Message of the Cross is simply The Gospel of Jesus Christ! What is this Gospel that those who are perishing find so Foolish?

Paul, in **1 Corinthians 13** expressed to The Corinthian Church the True nature of Love. He then in chapter 14 admonishes them for their abuse of Tongues as their use of tongues had begun to parallel the tongues used by the pagan Greco Roman Religions where they would work

themselves into an **emotional frenzy** that led to inaudible babblings attributed to their own gods. Even today there are churches abusing tongues in this very same manner.

Paul then in **1 Corinthians 15:1-8** bring them back to the true reality of Christianity and Argues for The Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Unlike most of **1 Corinthians**, chapter 15 is **devoted entirely to doctrine**, and to a single doctrine at that. In these 58 verses Paul gives the most extensive treatment of **the Resurrection** in all of Scripture.

After-all Easter is about The **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ!

### **I. The Resurrection is Found in Gospel**

**Preaching (1-2)** Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel** I preached to you, which **you received**, in which **you stand**, <sup>2</sup> and by which **you are being saved**, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-- unless **you believed in vain**.

**Romans 10:14** So how can they call on someone they don't have faith in? And how can they have faith in someone they haven't heard of? And **how can they hear without a preacher?**

The Gospel is Good News that must be **Preached!**

The Gospel is Good News that must be **Received!**

The Gospel is Good News in which **You Stand!**

The Gospel is Good News by which **You are Being Saved!**

**Warning:** if you hold fast to the word I preached to you-- unless **you believed in vain.**

## **II. The Resurrection is Fulfilled Prophecy (3-4)**

**Acts 2:37-38** Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, **what shall we do?**" <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "**Repent** and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Repent** is a Changing of the Mind. You change what you **Believe!** So what do you need to **Believe?**

**The Gospel!** What you need to believe is found in verses **(3 & 4)** For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received:

### **(The Gospel is Primary)**

1. **(3)** that **Christ died for our sins** in accordance with the Scriptures,

2. **(4)** that **he was buried,**

Roman **Special Forces** Guarded the Tomb! King Herod sent Four Roman Guards (16) to guard Peter.

3. **(4)** that **he was raised on the third day** in accordance with the Scriptures,

## **III. The Resurrection has been Fully Proven**

**(5-8)** <sup>5</sup> and that **he appeared** to **Cephas**, then to **the twelve.** <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than **five hundred brothers** at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared **to James**, then to **all the apostles.** <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

- **The Proof of Human Reasoning** – The Roman guard and seal!) (The fear and weakness of the disciples. They couldn't steal the body, the Romans wouldn't steal the body.) **That only leaves God**
- **The Proof of Human Testimony** Not an **hallucination!** There were more witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus than to the signing of the Declaration of Independence! Yet, no one doubts that that document was signed! How is it that some try to doubt the resurrection?
- **The Proof of Human Nature** People are not willing to die for something they do not believe in. Yet, the disciples were willing to give up everything, including their lives because they believed Jesus was alive! All were Martyred
- **The Proof of Common Experience** The disciples were saddened by the death of Jesus and hiding in fear, yet 3 days later they were happy and filled with power. The only explanation is that He rose from the dead.
- **The Proof of Changed Lives** The disciples! They were forever transformed after the resurrection! Skeptics may say that it is just emotion and self-will! I say that it is the transforming power of a living Savior,

## The Gospel

### Lyrics - Ryan Stevenson

A restless generation  
We're turning over every stone  
Hoping to find salvation  
In a world that's left us cold  
Can we get back to the altar?  
Back to the arms of our first love  
There's only one way to the Father  
And He's calling out to us  
To the captive, it looks like freedom  
To the orphan, it feels like home  
To the skeptic, it might sound crazy  
To believe in a God who loves  
In a world, where our hearts are breaking  
And we're lost in the mess we've made  
Like a blinding light, in the dead of night

It's the Gospel  
The Gospel that makes a way  
It's the cure for our condition  
It's the good news for us all  
It's greater than religion  
It's the power of the Cross  
So can we get back to the altar?  
Back to the arms of our first love  
There's only one way to the Father  
And He's calling out to us  
To the captive, it looks like freedom  
To the orphan, it feels like home  
To the skeptic, it might sound crazy

To believe in a God who loves  
In a world, where our hearts are breaking  
And we're lost in the mess we've made  
Like a blinding light, in the dead of night

It's the Gospel  
The Gospel that makes a way  
The amazing news of the Gospel  
Is not that we can receive Jesus into our lives  
But that He's already received us  
Into His

In my own life, it means forgiveness  
When I know I deserved the fall  
It called me out of my darkness  
And carried me to the Cross  
In a moment, my eyes were opened  
In that moment, my heart was changed  
Like a blinding light, in the dead of night

It's the Gospel  
The Gospel that makes a way  
Oh To the captive, it looks like freedom  
To the orphan, it feels like home  
To the skeptic, it might sound crazy  
To believe in a God who loves  
In a world, where our hearts are breaking  
And we're lost in the mess we've made  
Like a blinding light, in the dead of night

It's the Gospel  
The Gospel that makes a way

**Praise Team Takes the Platform**