

## His Resurrection—Our Resurrection

This week, many the world are celebrating Easter. It is the time that people focus on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. For many, the story is familiar, and just maybe so familiar that it loses its impact on their lives. For many more, the story is unfamiliar and the day is spent hiding Easter eggs and eating chocolate bunnies. For all, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, whether they realize it or not, is the most important event in the history of mankind.

Old Testament scripture foretold the coming of the Messiah and His impact on mankind. The scriptures also told us of the need for His sacrifice. And prophecies spoke of His resurrection from the dead after His execution by the Romans at the bequest of the Jews.

Jesus was and is that Messiah that was prophesied. He did live the life that was foretold. And He was executed by being “hung on a tree” – crucified – just as the scriptures said He would. He was buried in a borrowed tomb, but His body did not see corruption and He was resurrected. His resurrection proved once and for all His divinity. He was and is God in the flesh.

***“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.” (Romans 4:25)***

***“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (1 Corinthians 5:21)***

Jesus was the sin offering, taking the sins of the whole world upon Himself so that we might be seen as blameless in God’s eyes.

***“There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.” (Romans 3:22-26)***

And what does Paul tell us we must do to be justified—looked upon as sinless by God? Die, be buried, and be resurrected.

***“... don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup> We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.”***

(Romans 6:3-5)

It is because of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection that we can be assured of the forgiveness of sin accomplished through our own death of the old man of sin, his burial in baptism, and the resurrection of the new man who will live for God. As the world celebrates Easter this week, let your minds dwell on these words. We know the significance of the resurrection. It is our obligation to tell others.

---Johnny Stephens