

Easter

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We call it Easter. The holiday comes from something in the Bible, our only real source of information on the subject. The word appears only once in the Bible and it is not referring to the event we celebrate this year on April 1. But the information is there. A better title for Easter would be Resurrection Day. It is one of my favorite days of the year.

Many people have forgotten the meaning of Easter. When I was a student, we had Easter holidays. Those in school now have Spring Break, a few days away from books and classes. For many, Easter is just another of those fine-print days on the calendar like Longfellow's birthday or Plant Corn Day or Be Kind to Your Neighbor Day.

Easter is about more than new clothes and ham dinners and colored eggs. Many will not think beyond the fluff, just as Christmas is often food, presents, and the office party.

Christ is alive.

And everything is different because of it.

Education is great. But no one ever educated someone to walk out of a tomb. Medical science is wonderful, but it has its limits. Even the best doctors and nurses can only keep us alive for a few years. Philosophies are often nice, but no one ever thought his way out of a grave. Diplomacy is often impressive, but no one ever agreed to rise from the dead. Military power is awesome, but no army ever freed a dead person. And congresses and parliaments don't have the power to conquer death.

Did it really happen? Did Someone actually rise from the dead? The evidence is overwhelming. And the wild theories giving other choices are really weak alternatives.

Wrong tomb? The authorities could have gone to the right one and produced the body. Animals stole the body? Sure, a few animals got together and rolled away a two-ton stone and

overpowered the guards. Try again. The followers stole it? Hardly! They had forsaken Him in a cowardly way. And if they stole it, they would not be willing to later die for a hoax.

Great scholars have studied the facts and decided that Christ did indeed rise from the dead. Lawyer Frank Morison set out to refute the evidence and ended up writing a book called *Who Moved the Stone?* supporting the Resurrection. Simon Greenleaf of Harvard Law School concluded that the Resurrection was one of the best-supported events in history according to the laws of legal evidence administered in courts of justice.

Some may choose to visit Mecca and see the tomb of Mohammed or view the grave of another religious leader. I don't choose that. If it makes sense to follow someone who cannot defeat death, we have that privilege in America. But if it does not work for the founder, the leader, I don't want it. Losing coaches do not conduct clinics on how to win games. Losing generals don't tell how to win battles. But the One who rolled away a stone and walked out of a tomb can tell me about this life and the next one and victory over death. He tells us to trust Him for our eternal well-being.

The Bible puts it so well, "Why seek you the living among the dead?" and "He is risen as He said."

He is alive.

Happy Easter.