

**OUR  
MOST  
IMPORTANT-  
MESSAGE**

## OUR MOST IMPORTANT MESSAGE

March 31, 2013

**Sermon in a sentence: The most important message we have for our world is that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and rose again three days later to offer us the gift of eternal life!**

**Scriptures (NASB): 1 Cor. 15:1-4, 20-22; Col. 2:13; Is. 53:4-6, 11 (KJV)**

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 20-22 (NASB) Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (Is. 53:4-6, 11; Ps. 22:1-18; Ps. 16:7-11) and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures (Mt. 12:38-40; 16:21)

*Matt. 12:38-40 NASB Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." 39 But He answered and said to them, " An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; 40 for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."*

*Matt 16:21 NASB From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.*

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

**For us as Christians, Easter Sunday is a time of great rejoicing! It is a yearly anniversary, a constant reminder of the greatest event, the greatest conquest in the history of humankind, the bodily resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!**

**Jesus defeated sin and evil, death, sickness, the devil and hell when He rose from the tomb and opened the doors of Heaven wide, that all may enter in!**

**Paul came to the end of his first letter to the Corinthians after having addressed a host of problems they were facing as a congregation. As he was about to say his final farewell, he re-focused his attention on the reason we do what we do, live the way we live and even suffer pain and hardship in our dealings with the people around us.**

**To paraphrase, here's what he said: "Let me remind you again of the most important message I have delivered, or could ever deliver to you. It is the one Jesus Himself delivered to me when I was out in the Arabian desert a few years ago. It is the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that He died on Calvary's cross for our sins, was buried in a rich man's tomb as the scriptures prophesied, and rose from the dead three days later to the amazement, chagrin and terror of the chief priests and elders, the scribes and Pharisees, the Roman governor and the devil himself." This was definitely not a day they wanted to see!**

**The message of the resurrection is the most powerful, dynamic, life-altering, world-changing message there is. It is the foundation of our hope and our faith.**

**In 1 Cor. 15:14ff Paul says that if it weren't for the resurrection, all of our preaching would be pointless and empty. Our faith would be worthless. We would still be lost in our sins.**

**If there is one thing we have got to believe – and know – beyond the shadow of a doubt, it is the fact that Jesus is alive! His crucifixion and death were incredible and impactful on their own, but without the resurrection, we would still be lost in our sins.**

**Jesus' resurrection is our guarantee of resurrection.**

**Without Him, we have no hope.**

**With Him, we have life everlasting.**

**Without this hope, without this assurance, without faith in the fact of His resurrection, we would be the most pitiful and miserable people on Earth!**

**1 Cor. 15:19 (NASB) If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.**

**Jesus did not die on a whim or a dare. He had a very firm purpose, which involves you and me. We, who were spiritually dead because of our sins and transgressions, can be spiritually re-born through His death, burial and resurrection. He has provided the only solution to the world's biggest problem – the sin problem, and the separation from God that sin causes.**

**Colossians 2:13 (NASB) When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.**

## **As Isaiah prophesied:**

Is. 53:4-6 KJV Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

**You may be thinking, “I don’t really have a problem. My life is just fine, thank you very much, and I don’t really get it when you talk about this ‘sin problem’”.**

**However, just because we don’t *think* we have a problem does not mean we don’t have a problem! Sometimes things are happening that we don’t see, feel or know about, but they can kill us.**

**Many of us know stories of people who were extremely healthy (or so it seemed), who died of strokes, heart attacks and cancers nobody knew anything about until it was too late. You may love your sugar, salt, fried food, cake and ice cream, but at some point, sooner or later, your day of reckoning will come!**

**Sin works the same way. It is an indiscriminate killer, sneaky and deceptive. It looks good, feels good and tastes good, until....**

**In reality, the majority of people in our world are like the living dead. Very much alive in the realm of natural, physical, human existence, but spiritually dead. Many speak of being ‘spiritual’, but outside of Christ, spirituality bears no eternal fruit.**

**Easter tells the story of how we can be born again. Born of water and Spirit. Born to new life in the Spirit – we who were dead in trespasses and sins.**

**His resurrection is our ironclad guarantee of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Is. 53:11 KJV He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.**

**This is our most important message. Jesus is alive, and He has come to give you eternal life, starting today!**

**Prayer time: Choruses – Living He Loved Me; Into My Heart**

4/24/'11