

## **The Heart of Easter**

The Bible teaches that God is both just and loving. Because He is just, sin must be punished – and we are told that everyone has fallen short of His glory, and the consequence of this sin is death. Yet God is also loving and does not desire that we perish. Instead, He made a way for our penalty to be paid through Jesus Christ. In His great love, God sent His Son, and through Jesus' death on the cross, He took upon Himself the punishment we deserved. As a result, those who have accepted Jesus' sacrifice for them are no longer condemned but set free.

Through Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection, the debt of sin has been fully paid. This is why the story of Jesus—from His birth to His resurrection—is so amazing because through Jesus, God Himself provided the means for our salvation. When we accept Jesus and seek His forgiveness, we are given eternal life. Because of Him, death has been defeated, and what seemed like the end on Good Friday has become a new beginning. His resurrection assures us that sin is forgiven, hope is alive, and new life is available to all.

The resurrection, however, was not expected by Jesus' followers. Despite His teachings, the disciples did not anticipate seeing Him again. They hid in fear, while authorities guarded the tomb. Even those closest to Jesus initially misunderstood what had happened. But when they encountered the risen Christ, everything changed. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they became bold witnesses, spreading the message of God's love and establishing the early church.

The resurrection confirms that Jesus is the Son of God and the victorious Saviour over sin and death. It assures us of God's forgiveness, eternal life, and the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit. What began as despair was transformed into hope, and death into life.

This is the heart of Easter: because Jesus lives, we are forgiven, restored, and invited into new life with God.

Praise God that Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed!