



What's the Big Deal?

Read: John 20:1-10

The resurrection is the single most important event in history. Jesus “was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification” (Romans 4:25). For those who believe in him life takes on a whole new purpose and direction. But so many people do not know the reason for Jesus’ death and resurrection.

First, Jesus came to pay the debt for our sin. For “all have sinned” and “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Sin leaves us deserving eternal separation from God (2 Thess. 1:9). Jesus calls this place hell (Matt. 10:28). Hell, as Pope Benedict XVI put it, is the loss of our eternal purpose. Out of love God created us, and his purpose for our lives is to be with him now and for eternity (1 Tim. 2:4). Hell is the consequence of our free choice to remain in sin and not accept the mercy of God as offered to us through Jesus.

The central truth of the gospel is that out of love for us God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus was uniquely able to solve our dilemma with sin because he was fully God and man. As God, he had the power to devise a plan for our salvation. As man, He was able to execute that plan by taking upon himself the punishment we deserved. He did all this so that He could turn around and offer us His forgiveness, friendship and leadership as a gift. The only way we can receive this gift is if we freely accept it. When we do that our sin (debt) is paid in full, and we receive the promise of eternal life in heaven.

Second, Jesus gives us the power to transform our lives. When we follow Jesus we gain his ongoing companionship. He will be there to lovingly lead and guide us. The Bible teaches us that this power can cancel out our past, conquer our problems and change our circumstances. That same power is available to us, *if* we desire it.

The resurrection enables us to *know* Christ and experience the *power* of his resurrection in our own lives. God created us for a life with him that is full of love, peace, truth, beauty, goodness and meaning that begins now, lasts forever, and can’t be taken away. The resurrection offers us a new beginning. That’s why Easter is a very big deal and worth some serious consideration.

Grow: Have I accepted the power of Jesus’ resurrection in my life?