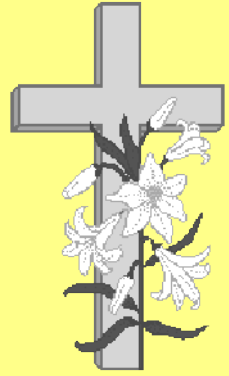


Scottish Registered Charity: SC015322



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PORTOBELLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Messenger

April 2010

An Easter Thought

What does Easter mean to you? Holidays, Parties, Family get-togethers, rest, more expense! Just another season in the year.

Or, if we are honest, we do not know what all the fuss is about. Some man, two thousand years ago, died on a cross. So what? This is how the majority of people in our land today, view Easter. Or, maybe they know all about the story. They are church attendees'. However, Easter has no real effect upon their lives. They have never known this man Jesus who died on the Cross for all mankind personally.

Jesus died on that Cross because of his love for you and for me. He took our place on that tree and became sin for us. None other was good enough to pay the price of redemption.

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."
He was not just a man; He was the Son of God also.

He loved us so much; He gave his very life blood, that we might be reunited with God the Father. Our sin is the great separator from God.

If Easter is only a time of enjoyment for us. Then we have never truly come in touch or been touched by this Man of the Cross.

Let this Easter be the one that comes gloriously alive for you. Look to this man Jesus, the Son of God, and Live!

Easter for the Christian is the most solemn, yet, the most joyous and thankful occasion of the year!

He died that we might live! Praise His Name!

He is risen! Hallelujah!

Rev. Terry Gallagher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 4th 7.30 p.m. Management Meeting
 26th 7.30 p.m. Quarterly Business Meeting

PRAYER POINT

Please continue to pray for those that regularly attend the Thursday evening Stauros Meeting, that God would sovereignly move in their lives as they seek to know more of Him and to conquer their addictions. Pray also for those who faithfully assist each week.

Ewan Sinclair

HE MUST BE FINED

Millions are unsaved because they think that all that is necessary to get right with God is to ask for His forgiveness. To counter this, use the following illustration: A criminal is standing before a good judge in a court of law, guilty of a terrible crime for which there is a \$50,000 fine. If he simply says, "Judge, I know I'm guilty of this serious crime, but I'm truly sorry and I won't do it again," is the judge going to then let him go? Of course not. He should be sorry for what he's done, and of course, he shouldn't do it again. The judge is bound by the law. He must fine him. He must make sure that justice is done or the judge himself is corrupt. So, open up God's Law to show sinners that they are condemned, and the cross is their only hope of salvation. There goes another minute. Gone forever. Go share your faith while you still have time..



LINK MISSIONARY UPDATE (rec'd 1 April 2010)

Dear friends,

Happy Easter from Angola

This year we have 840 children enrolled in PEPE and twelve new classes. It's a lot of children and a lot of great opportunities. pray for them and their teachers. Pray especially for little Neusa. She has been coming to PEPE with a large open sore on her foot. We don't know how it started but it looks nasty and the flies were having a party all around it. The teacher had already spoken to Neusa's mum about cleaning and covering it, but it seems mum is not able to do that so we are trying to treat it at PEPE. Pray it would heal well. Some of the PEPE children come from such difficult backgrounds and they just love coming to PEPE where they are shown love and care. At one PEPE I visited last week, spaghetti with tomato sauce and sausage was on the menu. To see the amount a little tot of 5 could put away was amazing. There were no dirty plates in sight. For me this was a reminder that food is often a scarce commodity in their homes.

Pray we would be able to continue to provide the snack. Our boss was visiting last week and he brought some Easter goodies with him. He also took back some of my paperwork for a new visa and I am waiting for documents from the Church here and news from the embassy in London about what visa I can apply for. I should be returning to Scotland for Home Assignment at the end of August and my boss suggested I pack up my house before leaving in case it takes ages, or I don't get, a new visa. That's all a bit unsettling but God is Sovereign and I know you will be praying. It's unsettling for Fiona too as she has only been out here for a month after having to wait 8 months for her visa to come through. Pray for her as she settles in and finds her place in the work here. Thanks for all your prayers and a blessed Easter to you all.

Love

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lynne', written in black ink.

DON'T FORGET THE RESURRECTION



In 1874, a Baptist minister named Robert Lowry penned one of the most stirring hymns to ever exalt the resurrection of Jesus Christ – "Low in the Grave He Lay." Notice how these verses contrast the impotence of death and suffering with the resurrection power of Christ:

*Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour;
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!
Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour;
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
Death cannot keep its Prey, Jesus my Saviour;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!*

Death, man's most dread enemy, is powerless to reign over the Lord of life. And that truth has significance for you and me, here and now in the twenty-first century. You can see it in the most exciting and rousing part of Lowry's hymn, the refrain that punctuates each stanza:

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Do you see in those lines what Jesus' resurrection means to you? If you are a Christian, you can rejoice in the fact that Christ rose from the dead as a victor, a champion who lives forever to reign, "with His saints." That refers to the promise based on our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ – it is our hope and the reason and ground of all we believe.

But what if there were no resurrection? What if the resurrection of Jesus Christ is just a first-century myth to be ignored or marginalized as a secondary issue? The implications of that approach are devastating to Christianity.

I want to draw your attention to what Paul wrote in I Corinthians Ch 15 vv 16–19 so that you can see what happens when you forget the resurrection.

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then

those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.

Without question, if Jesus is still in the grave, if He is perpetually the sufferer and never the Victor, then you and I are hopelessly lost. And though that is not the case, I want to focus on the hypothetical "what if" that Paul assumes temporarily in I Corinthians 15. "What if the resurrection were a myth? What if Jesus Christ were still dead and in the grave?"

First of all, you would still be in your sins, under the tyranny of death along with the most vile and unbelieving pagan. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, then sin won the victory over Him and continues to be victorious over you too. If Jesus remained in the grave, then, when you die you would also stay dead. Furthermore, since "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23), were you to remain dead, death and eternal punishment would be your future.

The purpose of trusting in Christ is for forgiveness of sins, because it is from sin that we need to be saved. "Christ died for our sins" and "was buried, and ... raised on the third day" (I Corinthians Ch 15 vv 3-4). If Christ was not raised, His death was in vain, your faith in Him would be pointless, and your sins would still be counted against you with no hope of spiritual life.

Second, if there is no resurrection, then "those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished." That means every Old Testament saint, every New Testament saint, and every saint since Paul wrote would be suffering in torment at this very moment. That would include Paul himself, the rest of the apostles, Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Wesley, Moody, and the faithful and prayerful saints you've known – every other believer in every age also would be in hell. Their faith would have been in vain, their sins would not have been forgiven, and their destiny would be damnation.

In light of the other consequences, the last is rather obvious. "If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied." Without Christ's resurrection, and the salvation and blessings it brings, Christianity would be pointless and pitiable. Without the resurrection we would have no Saviour, no forgiveness, no gospel, no meaningful faith, no life, and we could never have hope for any of those things.

To have hoped in Christ alone in this life would be to teach, preach, suffer, sacrifice, and work entirely for nothing. If Christ is still dead, then He not only has no ability to save you in the future, but He can't help you now either. If He were not alive, where would be your source of peace, joy, or satisfaction now? The Christian life would be a mockery, a charade, a tragic and cruel joke. Christians who suffer and even die for the faith would be

just as blind and pathetic as those "believers" who followed Jim Jones and the People's Temple, David Koresh and the Branch Davidians, and Marshall Applewhite and the Heaven's Gate cult.

Since a Christian has no Saviour but Christ, no Redeemer but Christ, and no Lord but Christ, if Christ is not raised, He is not alive, and our Christian life is lifeless. We would have nothing to justify our faith, our Bible study, our preaching or witnessing, our service for Him or our worship of Him, and nothing to justify our hope in this life or the next. We would deserve nothing but the compassion reserved for fools.

But, God did raise "Jesus our Lord from the dead, He who was delivered up because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification" (Romans Ch 4 vv 24-25). Because Christ lives, we too shall live (John Ch 14 v 19). "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Saviour, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins" (Acts Ch 5 v 30-31).

We are NOT to be pitied, for Paul immediately ends the dreadful "what if" section by saying, "But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep" (1 Corinthians Ch 15 v 20). As Paul said at the end of his life, "I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him [i.e. his life] until that day" (2 Timothy Ch 1 v 12).

Those who do not hope in Christ alone for salvation are the real fools; they are the ones who need to hear your compassionate testimony about the triumph of Christ's resurrection. So don't forget the resurrection; rejoice in it and glory in it, for He is risen indeed.

(taken from www.gty.org)



GREAT QUOTES by Kirk Cameron



"Ah, my Brothers and Sisters, Christ's eyes look in the opposite direction to ours. We usually look for some goodness on the part of men before we help them, but He looks to their sin, degradation and need. He is kind to the unthankful and the evil. He justifies those who are not, in themselves, just – while we were dead in trespasses and sins, 'in due time Christ died for the ungodly.' Grace, pure Grace, abounds in Him and is

blessedly manifested in His mission of saving the lost."

~ Charles Spurgeon

I find it profoundly interesting that Jesus' mission to rescue sinners was not motivated by something "worthy" or "valuable" in us, but rather his mercy is magnified by the fact that He saved us even while we had nothing to offer Him but our sin and shame. To think that Jesus didn't come to rescue friends, but to love his enemies, serve them unto death, adopt them as His children, and allow them to reign with Him forever... God's grace is amazing!



~ Kirk Cameron

BAPTIST UNION OF SCOTLAND PRAYER LINK

April	4th	Cambuslang & Canonmills, Edinburgh
	11th	Carbrain, Cumbernauld & Carluke
	18th	Castlehill, Bearsden & Castlemilk, Glasgow
	25th	Cathcart, Glasgow & Charlotte Chapel