



How Easter Changed The World (And Can Change Your Life)

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Icebreaker:

What is a favorite Easter tradition in your family that you cherish?

The Study:

Easter is more than a good story. Once this seeks deep into your heart – that Christ conquered death – it will change everything. The way you view life and death, trials and suffering, work, money, the care of your body, and care of your community...*everything*.

In this passage from 1 Corinthians, Paul urges these believers (and us) to keep up the fight to push back sin and grow in godliness. What we should notice is that each of the 4 reasons he gives for doing this flow straight out of the empty tomb. If Jesus never rose, then these reasons wouldn't hold water. If he did, well...let's talk about it.



Why should I fight sin and grow in godliness?

Reason #1: The *Bema* Factor – Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1. *Bema* is the Greek word that refers to the “judgment seat”. While Paul doesn't mention it in these verses, he's clearly thinking of it. Read Romans 14:10,12. Meditate on these verses for 60 seconds (somebody keep a timer), then share what thoughts you have.

Let's take a quick detour:

If you're a Christian, you may be confused by this idea. “*Wait a minute! I thought in accepting Christ, I was forgiven, saved, the whole 9-yards. I didn't think I'd face judgment.*” Be at peace, if that's you. (And good job also, because you are “thinking theologically”!) There are several “judgments” referred to in Scripture.

Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 for one description of the assessment Christians will receive. Put it in your own words.

Another way to put it: Christians are not saved *by* works, but *for* works, and those works – the fruit of my faith – will be evaluated. There will be rewards given in eternity (e.g. 2 Tim.4:7-8).

And now back to our regularly scheduled Bible study...

2. In centuries past, the holy fear of facing God's judgment used to be a powerful incentive for pursuing holiness. Today though, not so much. (For example, a sermon in the 1700s, “Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God”, helped spark a nationwide revival called *The Great Awakening*.) What do you think has changed between then and now? How do you think a sermon titled that would fly today?

3. How does Easter – the truth that Christ rose – make the *Bema* Factor more prominent in our thinking? And why might that not be a bad thing?

Reason #2: The *Body-Belongs-To-The-Lord* Factor

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-14

Apparently, some in the Corinthian church bought in to the idea that Christianity is all about “the soul”, or the spiritual side of things, but had little to do with the body. Their logic for this was that the body “is temporary”. It grows old, dies and is destroyed, while the spirit lives on. This then led some of them to conclude that “we can do anything we want with our bodies”, including running down to the local temples and “worshipping” with a prostitute (and Corinth was filled with hundreds of them.)

4. With this background in mind, what do you think Paul meant when he said in verse 13, “*The body is...for the Lord and the Lord for the body.*”

5. Read Luke 24:36-43 and 1 Corinthians 15:42-44. The Judeo-Christian faith has always taught that matter *matters*. The earth is good. And when we are resurrected, we will be resurrected *in bodies*. Let’s move from “thinking biblically” to “thinking theologically”. With this biblical doctrine in mind, what would you say to:

- A Christian who brushes off exercise and nutrition as “unspiritual”?
- A person who says they are a man trapped in a woman’s body (or vice versa) and they want to tear their body apart to make it match “who they really are in their soul”?

6. Why does it matter that we care for things in this life (like bodies, money, relationships, community, etc.) when all these things are temporary?

Reason #3: The *Bonding* Factor – Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-19a

7. From these verses, define what you think we mean by “the Bonding Factor”?

If Easter never happened, would this reason for being good hold any water? Why not?

8. How should it help you fight for holiness to remember that your body is a “temple of the Holy Spirit”.

Reason #4: The *Bought* Factor – Read 1 Corinthians 6:19b-20

9. “*You were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*”

We showed a portion of a scene from “Saving Private Ryan” (you can watch the full scene from our website, by clicking on this sermon, or going to “Sermon – Podcasts”) that illustrates what Paul meant. Why should Christ’s death and resurrection for you motivate you to give him your all?

10. Take 5 minutes to write out a 30-Second Story of how Easter – Christ’s resurrection – has changed your life for the better. Share it with others.

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