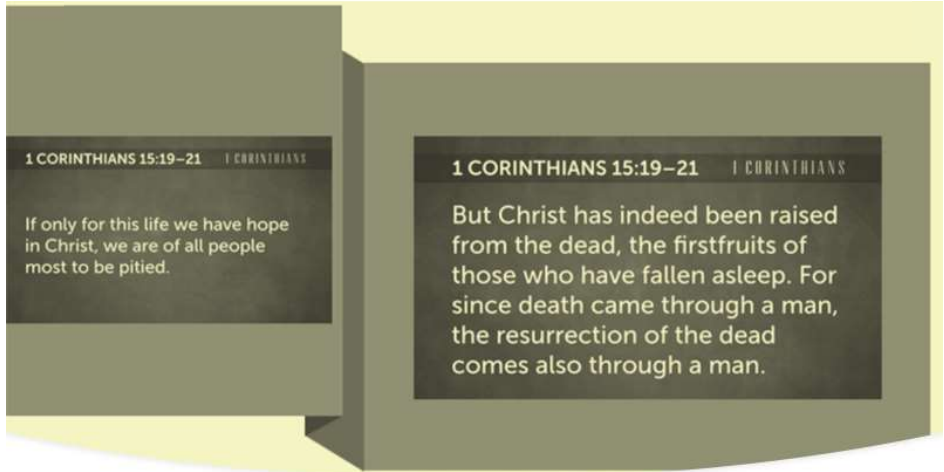


# We celebrate Easter: Because He Lives!



*“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord ...*

*“A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” – John 20:19-20, 26-27*

The disciples were in a room with doors locked because they were still trembling in fear of being arrested for their association with Jesus. Jesus appeared. He passed through the locked doors easily. He was no longer in the flesh crucified, but in His resurrected body that was detached from physical limitations. Yet, the resurrected body was not wholly Spirit, as He could still be physically touched and got close to.

There was the divine mystery both of Jesus being able to pass through the locked doors easily not once but twice (the 2<sup>nd</sup> time when He appeared to Thomas) and of still making His physical presence felt. Clearly, it was not just a figment of the imaginations of one or two persons. All the disciples testified of the same:

*“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.” – 1 John 1-3*

### Resurrection is “incredible”

Resurrection is an incredible thing for modern people. It is not possible to analyse with scientific minds the unison of the pre-resurrected body of Christ in the flesh and the post-resurrection physical-cum-Spirit form. It is just like how it is impossible to analyse the Trinity with our non-omniscient minds.

If you are adamant about using modern investigative methods to prove the resurrection, you will still not believe no matter how many witnesses are cited.

If you are like the doubting Thomas who would not believe the resurrected Jesus until confronted with a direct personal experience, what might be it that you want to experience first?

Jesus said to Thomas, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes.”

He continued, “Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”

(John 20:29 MSG)

If you are among those who believe by faith, you are more blessed indeed!

*“Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1 Pet 1:8-9)*

[Peace be with all believers](#)

Each of the times Jesus appeared to His disciples, He said, “Peace be with you!”

This is more than just a customary greeting like “Shalom!” Rather, it is the peace that Jesus, though departing His disciples, left with all believers:

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (John 14:27)

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

It is the peace that surpasses all understanding that will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

“Christ himself is our peace. He has made Jews and non-Jews into one group of people. He has destroyed the hatred that was like a wall between us.” (Eph 2:14 NirV)

### [Salvation for everyone who believes](#)

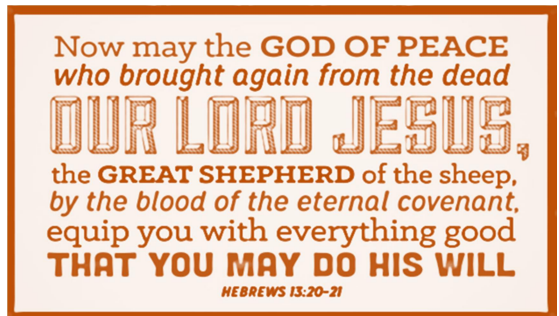
Explaining the salvation offered through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Apostle Paul wrote:

*“Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.” – Rom 10:1-4*

### [He has risen!](#)

Good Friday is good (holy) because without Good Friday, we would not have the hope that Easter brings.

Come Easter, the Jesus whom His enemies crucified is no longer on the Cross. He has risen! By this, we know that our faith is not futile. (1 Cor 15:17) If there was no resurrection of Christ, we sinners would still be living under the law. Our annual observance of Easter (12 Apr 2020 this year) gives us the constant reminder that we have the hope of salvation because He lives. The famous hymn “Because He Lives” highlights this hope cogently:



*“God sent His Son  
They called Him Jesus  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He lived and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives*

*“Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because He lives”*

*“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.” – Rom 8:1-2*

*John Lee*