

Easter Special: The Prophesied, Redeeming, Risen Christ

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Host: David Wheaton 00:08

The Prophesied, Redeeming, Risen Christ. Today's an Easter Special Edition of The Christian Worldview Radio Program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a nonprofit listener supported radio ministry, we were able to broadcast on the radio station, website or app on which you are listening today because of the support of listeners like you. Thank you for your prayer, encouragement and support. You can connect with us by visiting our website, TheChristianWorldview.org, calling our toll free number 1-888-646-2233 or writing to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

The prophets foretold Him. The gospels reveal Him. The epistles explain Him. All of Scripture exalts Him. Him being Jesus Christ, the God-man who lived among us, was crucified by those He had created, who miraculously rose from the grave, and then ascended alive into heaven. This is way beyond the, "greatest story ever told." Rather, Jesus Christ is the greatest One who ever lived. His crucifixion, burial, resurrection is the greatest, most significant event in human history. Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me."* John 14:6. Scripture also says, *"For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.* That's from I Timothy 2:5.

This Easter weekend, we're going to talk about "the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all." We'll examine the most detailed Old Testament prophecy about him in Isaiah 53 and see how it was precisely fulfilled. We'll also hear some of the most profound hymns about Christ's sacrificial death for man. We hope your Easter is made more meaningful as you listen to this special edition of The Christian Worldview Radio Program.

There are hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus the Christ, Christ, meaning the Anointed One or the Messiah, even going back all the way to Genesis chapter three at the beginning of the Bible, where God is meeting out the consequences of the original sin to Satan and Adam and Eve. He says this in Genesis 3:14, He's talking to Satan. The Lord God said to the serpent, *And I will put enmity or hostility, opposition, between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, that's her seed, she'll bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.* What does that mean? Christ isn't mentioned by name. But as you read scripture, you realize that, aside from God declaring himself a trinity in the first chapter or two of Genesis, here in chapter three, is the first reference that there's going to be a Redeemer, or you could say, a champion, a victor that's going to come from a woman. That the Son, Jesus Christ, will

deal a fatal blow to the head of Satan, bruise you on the head, and he did that at the Cross winning victory for all time over him, and that Satan will give a bruise to Christ, bruise Him on the heel. That's what would take place at the crucifixion.

Sure enough, Satan entered Judas Iscariot himself, to betray Christ, and to deal that bruise to Christ's heel. But it would turn out to be a fatal blow for Satan. Moving forward one book in the Old Testament from Genesis to Exodus, the institution of the Passover, which started during the 10th plague when the Jews were in Egypt. God was using these plagues against Pharaoh to bring his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. This last plague was the killing of the firstborn male in every home across Egypt that did not obey God and put the blood of a lamb on the doorposts of their homes. This was rich with prophetic significance to the shed blood of the future lamb who would take away the sin of the world. That would be Jesus Christ.

Listen here in Exodus chapter 12. *Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, On the 10th of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, a lamb for each household. Verse five. Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old. It had to be an unblemished lamb, just like Christ was the sinless Son of God who takes away the sin of the world. Verse six. You shall keep it the lamb until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.* This is the exact day and time 1000s of years later, that Christ would be crucified on this day of Passover, as the Jews were sacrificing lambs, Jesus Christ was being crucified and being sacrificed on the cross for sin. Verse seven of Exodus 12. *Moreover, they shall take some of the blood of the Lamb and put it on the two door posts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.*

In other words, over the doorframe they're to apply some of the blood of this lamb, just in the same way that the death and blood of Christ covered the posts of the cross and spiritually covered the sins of the believer, all the parallels and the foreshadowing between the first Passover and the future Passover where Christ would be sacrificed. Verse 11, Exodus 12. *Now you shall eat it the lamb in this manner: with your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you will eat it in haste-it is the Lord's Passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, God is saying, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments-I am the Lord. Verse 13. The blood you put on the doorpost shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, [that's where we get the word Passover] and no plague [no death of the firstborn] will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

So what does God do for those who put their faith and trust in the blood of Christ as covering their sin? God passes over you from judging you when He sees you as one who has trusted in the blood of Christ as being the way to be forgiven of your sin. Then we get to the prophecy of all prophecies in the Old Testament in Isaiah 52 and 53. I just want to read what it says in the MacArthur Study Bible about this particular section. It says, This section contains unarguable, incontrovertible proof that God is the author of Scripture and Jesus is the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy. The details in

this passage are so minute that no human could have predicted them by accident, and no imposter fulfilled them by cunning.

Clearly, this refers to Messiah Jesus as the New Testament attests. Now this is a familiar passage to many, but we're going to read it today in this Easter Special Edition of The Christian Worldview Radio Program starting in Isaiah chapter 52. Just the last few verses of that chapter, starting in verse 12. Isaiah describes the exalted servant before he gets to the suffering servant in Isaiah chapter 53. So Isaiah 52, starting in verse 13. *Behold, My servant [God is talking here, my servant is Christ] will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. Just as many were astonished at you, My people, So His [Christ's] appearance was marred more than any man and His form more than the sons of men.*

Thus He Christ will sprinkle many nations, kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand. What turned out to be the case was that Christ was marred terribly by the abuse of the soldiers and then again by being hung, nailed to a cross. The Kings, the great kings of the earth, their mouths will be stopped because they don't understand who this Jesus is. They think they're a king, but He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Most of the world does not understand who Jesus is, or what he did. But all will someday and every knee will bow. So now we turn to Isaiah chapter 53 where it starts out as, *Who has believed our message? A question. And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?* In other words, who's going to believe this message I'm about to tell you? Verse two. *For He [again referring to Messiah] grew up before Him [God] like a tender shoot, and like a root out of a parched ground; He [the Messiah] has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.* Verse three. *He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.* Jesus was not tall, strong and handsome. He was not some smiling, motivational speaker that just made people feel good. *He was a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and he was actually despised by the very people he created.*

But now we go to verse four. Listen to the substitutionary atonement of what this Messiah, what Christ did for sinful men and women. Verse four. *Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well being fell upon Him, and by His scourging [our stripes, another version said] we are healed.* All of us, like sheep have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the Lord has caused the iniquity or sin of us all to fall on Him. The sinless innocent Messiah, Jesus, stood before God, the Judge, and took the penalty for our sin. He was the substitute in our place. God can justly accept that substitute because Jesus has no sin of his own to pay for. So God can be just in punishing sin and He can also be *the justifier. He can declare us righteous because Christ did everything for us.* Verse seven. *He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet He did not open his mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so he did not open his mouth.* Christ never defended himself. What did he pray when he was taken to the cross? He prayed, *Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing.* Verse eight. *By oppression*

and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet he was with a rich man in his death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in his mouth. Again, the actual description of the way Jesus Christ really was, He was buried in a rich man's grave, Joseph's grave. Joseph and Nicodemus, who are two members of the religious ruling Sanhedrin of the day, they came to believe in Him and it was Joseph who took his body and placed it in his own tomb that he owned. Verse 10. *But the Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief: If he would render himself as a guilt offering, He will see his offspring, He will prolong his days, and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in his hand.* As a result of the anguish of the Messiah's soul, God will see it and be satisfied. *By His knowledge, the Righteous One, my servant, Jesus, will justify the many and He will bear their iniquities.*

This was not cosmic child abuse of God of His own Son. The Lord was pleased to crush Him, to put Him to grief, because God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God loved us so much that he was going to send his own Son to pay the penalty that we deserve to pay for our own sin so God's justice and wrath could be satisfied through the sacrifice of Christ. The final verse of Isaiah 53. Therefore, I will allot Him [the Messiah] *a portion with the great, and he will divide the booty with the strong; because He [the Messiah] poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors.* Yes, He Himself bore the sin of many, again substitution, and He interceded for the transgressors; [Jesus was numbered with transgressors, the two criminals on either side of him, he was crucified with] yet he bore the sin of all who will repent and believe in Him and He intercedes for those believers before God today.

According to Hymnary.org a man named Thomas Chisholm was born in Franklin, Kentucky in 1866. His boyhood was spent on a farm and in teaching district schools. He was converted to Christianity at the age of 26. His aim in writing was to incorporate as much scripture as possible and to avoid flippant or sentimental themes. This is the hymn he wrote.

He Was Wounded For Our Transgressions

He was wounded for our transgressions,
He bore our sins in His body on the tree;
for our guilt he gave us peace,
from our bondage gave release,
and with His stripes,
our souls are healed.

He was numbered among transgressors,
we did esteem Him forsaken by his God;
As our sacrifice He died,
that the law be satisfied,
and all our sin, was laid on Him.

We had wandered, we all had wandered

far from the fold of "the shepherd of the sheep";
but He sought us where we were,
on the mountains bleak and bare,
and brought us safely home to God.

Who can number His generation?
Who shall declare all the triumphs of His cross?
Millions dead now live again,
myriads follow in his train!
Victorious Lord, and coming King.

That particular hymn was based right off the passage we just read in Isaiah chapter 53. You're listening to a special Easter edition of The Christian Worldview Radio Program where we're discussing the prophesied, redeeming and risen Christ. I'm the host, David Wheaton. We'll return to The Christian Worldview right after this.

Featured Resource: *REVIVAL: The Work of God* 18:14

You pray for revival as if it must come, but you go on working as if it will not come. We must carry on witnessing for Christ, living a holy life, seeking to know Christ better, following his ways following his path, making unity and peace among God's people wherever we can, supporting the preaching of the Word by our prayers and our encouragement, and being quite frankly, godly Christians.

That was from the film, *Revival: The Work of God*, which surveys some of the great revivals of the past 500 years. This two hour, two disc DVD documentary is our new featured resource. Normal retail is \$40 plus shipping, and for a limited time, you can order the film for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Go to TheChristianWorldview.org, call 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

TCW Resource: *USB Flash Drive* 19:14

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Host: David Wheaton 20:22

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, TheChristianWorldview.org where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry. Today's program is a special Easter edition where we are discussing the prophesied, redeeming and risen Christ. The word redeem

means to save or to purchase out of enslavement. To buy back. We've been reading from the Gospel of Luke today. Let's continue in Luke chapter 22 about the redeeming work of Christ on the cross, starting in verse one.

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is called the Passover, [we just read about this in the first segment] was approaching. The chief priests and the scribes were seeking how they might put him Christ to death; for they were afraid of the people. The religious leaders of the day, trying to figure out how to kill their Messiah. Verse three. And Satan [here he enters the scene again, all the way back from Genesis three] entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve. Judas was one of the twelve disciples. And he went away Judas and discussed with the chief priests and officers how he might betray Jesus to them. They were glad and agreed to give him money. So he consented, and began seeking a good opportunity to betray Jesus to them apart from the crowd.

Consider the hardness of unbelief. Judas was with Jesus for the previous three years. He heard him, he saw His miracles, yet he still would not believe. Consider the hardness of these chief priests and scribes, these Pharisees and Sadducees, the religious leaders of their day, hearing about and seeing the miracles. Knowing the Old Testament, they should have known that this was the prophesied Messiah, he shall Nazareth, born in Bethlehem, but they would not believe. He was a threat to their power and their profit. They were envious and jealous of Him. Verse seven of Luke 22. *Then came the first day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed, as we were reading about back in Exodus twelve.*

They're still doing the same thing a couple 1000 years later, *and Jesus sent Peter and John saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it."* Now Jesus is going to be partaking of the Passover meal, verse 19. *And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me. And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood."* So Jesus is initiating a new covenant between God and man, and Christ is going to ratify this covenant with His own shed blood on the cross. Now instead of having a high priest as the mediator between God and men, Jesus himself is going to be the mediator, the intercessor, between God and men.

After this last supper, the disciples of Jesus go to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is praying, he's in agony. He's sweating great drops of blood. Eventually, Judas comes with soldiers, he betrayed Jesus with a kiss on the cheek, Jesus is arrested. The disciples are scattered. Jesus is treated unjustly, cruelly. Peter denies him three times. Finally, toward the end of Luke chapter 22 we see what the unregenerate God hating, God rejecting world is like in all its evilness. Verse 63. *Now the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him and beating Him, and they blindfolded Him and we're asking Him, saying, "Prophecy, who is the one who hit you? And they were saying many other things against him, blaspheming.*

Verse 66. *When it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council chambers, saying, "If you are the Christ, tell us. But*

Jesus said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask a question, you will not answer. Belief is more than just intellectual assent. It's a matter of surrendering the will. You will not believe. But from now on THE SON OF MAN WILL BE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND of the power of God. And they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then? And He said to them, "Yes, I am." Verse 71. Then they said, "What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth?"

There it is, Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. There's only two responses to that. Either He's a liar, or He's telling the truth. He's the Lord He claimed to be. The question for everyone listening today is, Where does the evidence about Jesus lead you? Is He a liar? Or is He the Lord? And if He is the Lord, have you believed in and surrendered and submitted to this Lord? Flipping the page to Luke chapter 23:13 where it says, *Pilate summoned the chief priests and the rulers and the people and said to them, "You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold, having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him. No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; and behold, nothing deserving death has been done by Him. Therefore, I will punish Him and release Him. Even Pilate, the Roman governor, is not finding any grounds to hold Jesus criminally responsible for anything. But the religious leaders of the Jewish people would not have this. They were out for blood. But they cried out altogether, saying, "Away with this man, and release for us Barabbas! (He was one who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection made in a city, and for murder.)"*

They're calling for his release, a criminals release and an innocent man, a perfectly innocent man's crucifixion. Verse 20. *Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept on calling out, saying, "Crucify, crucify Him!" And he said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him."* Verse 23. *But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail.*

In other words, they just shouted Pilate down just like you see a crowd today, demanding something in the street is the same principle back then. Verse 24. *And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted. He acquiesced. He gave in like a coward. Verse 25. And he released the man they were asking for who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, but he delivered Jesus to their will.* That is one of the most profoundly troubling statements in all of Scripture. The Jews would say, in another gospel, His blood be on us, and on our children. Just think about that. They wanted a criminal an insurrectionist murderer to be released, and the Son of God to be crucified.

The last part of Luke 23. Now, when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. And just to pause to say, in all of the Gospels, the crucifixion is not described in graphic, gory detail. It's just, there they crucified Him. I will surmise that God inspired this to be limited in his description. We can imagine what a crucifixion is like certainly, because the physical suffering of crucifixion was not the worst part of the sacrifice of Christ. It was Christ taking the sins of the world on Himself, and having His father pour out His wrath on His son. That was the hardest part of this whole thing. Not the physical pounding of

the nails through His hands and His feet. Verse 34, *but Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."* They certainly didn't. They did not know they were crucifying the Son of God. *They cast lots dividing up his garments among themselves. The people stood by looking on. Even the rulers were sneering at Him saying, it's not enough to put Him on a cross, now you gotta mock him more. He saved others, let Him save Himself. If this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One, the soldiers also mocked him, coming up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, if you are the king of the Jews, save yourself. Now there was also an inscription above him. This is the King of the Jews.*

Another mocking sign like "here's your king nailed to a cross." Verse 44. It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. Again, a new covenant here. You don't need a high priest anymore to go in and represent the people one time a year to the Holy of Holies. Now we have the Great high Priest, Jesus Christ, who goes right into the presence of God for us on our behalf. Verse 46. *And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT."* Having said this, He breathed His last. He died at his own appointed time. When the Centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, "Certainly, this man was innocent." And just as predicted in Isaiah 53, the burial of Christ comes next. *And a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man, (he had not consented to their plan and action), a man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God; this man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. And he took it down and wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid Him in a tomb cut into the rock, where no one had ever lain. It was the preparation day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. They saw where His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath, they rested according to the commandment. This is Christ's redeeming work on the cross for us.*

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, Thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
what bliss tis now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain:
mine, mine was the transgression,
but Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
Tis I deserve Thy place;

Look on me with Thy favor,
and grant to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
to thank Thee, dearest Friend,
for this, Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
Oh, make me Thine forever;
and should I fainting be, Lord,
let me never, never
outlive my love to Thee.

Be near me when I am dying,
oh, show Thy cross to me.
In for my rescue, flying,
come, Lord, and set me free!
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from Jesus shall not move,
for one who dies believing
dies safely, through Thy love.

You are listening to The Christian Worldview Radio Program about the prophesied, redeeming and risen Christ, this special Easter edition of The Christian Worldview Radio Program. I'm David Wheaton. What is The Christian Worldview Radio Program really about? Fundamentally, it's about impacting people, families, churches, with the life and eternity changing truth of God's Word. We know the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only message that saves us from God's wrath by God's grace for God's glory. And we know the Bible is the inspired Word of God, providing the only way to think and live to the glory of God. We are a nonprofit listener supported ministry. If you'd like to help us impact listeners with the biblical worldview and the Gospel, consider becoming a Christian Worldview Partner who regularly give a specified amount to the ministry. As a thank you, Christian Worldview Partners automatically receive many of the resources featured on the program throughout the year. To become a Christian Worldview Partner, call us toll free at 1-888-646-2233 or visit TheChristianWorldview.org.

Featured Resource: REVIVAL: The Work of God 35:23

That was from the film, Revival: The Work of God, which surveys some of the great revivals of the past 500 years. This two hour, two disc DVD documentary is our new featured resource. Normal retail is \$40 plus shipping, and for a limited time, you can order the film for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Go to TheChristianWorldview.org, call 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

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Host: David Wheaton 36:31

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. I'm David Wheaton. Be sure to visit our website, TheChristianWorldview.org where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print letter, order resources for adults and children and support the ministry. We are so grateful that you have joined us today on The Christian Worldview Radio Program where we have been discussing the prophesied, redeeming and risen Christ. In the first few segments, we've gone over the prophesied Christ from Isaiah chapter 53 and other passages from the Old Testament. In the second segment, we discussed the redeeming work of Christ on the cross and how He purchased the redemption of sinners. That the debt that we had accrued to God through our sin, that He paid in full for those who would repent and believe in Him. And now in the third segment, we're going to talk about the risen Christ or the victorious Christ over sin and death, and how His resurrection, the fact of His resurrection guarantees that those who believe in Him will be resurrected to eternal life as well.

Sticking in the Gospel of Luke in chapter 24. Now on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Remember, they had seen it there. They go back, the stone is rolled away, and there's no body. While they were greatly perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day, rise again." And they remembered His words, and returned from the tomb and reported all these things to the eleven disciples and to all the rest. Now they were Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James; also the other women with them were telling these things to the apostles. But these words appeared to them as nonsense, and they would not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen wrappings only; and he went away to his home, marveling at what had happened.

Now, there is no most important part of this Easter weekend, whether it's the crucifixion, the burial and the resurrection. All three have rich meaning, and they really are dependent on each other, but the resurrection of Christ does prove at least four things.

1. That Christ was who He said He was. He said he was going to be crucified and rise from the dead on several occasions. So he wasn't a liar. He was the Lord. He is who He said He is.
2. The resurrection proves that God was satisfied with His atonement. God didn't leave his son in the grave to decay. No, He was satisfied. His wrath and justice over our sin was satisfied. Christ had atoned. He had done the work that God had sent Him to do. And God raised Him from the dead. Our sin has been atoned for.

3. Number three, the resurrection of Christ proves that the Christian faith is true. We're going to find that out as we read from I Corinthians 15 in just a second.
4. The resurrection of Christ proves that the believer will rise again to heaven, because if Christ rose from the dead, He promises that believers in Him will rise again from the dead and go to heaven.

This is all laid out in I Corinthians 15. You can read it for yourself. I'll just read a couple of short passages in here. It starts out in verse three. *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and then He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas or Peter, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than 500 Brethren at one time,, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.*

So the resurrection of Christ was not some made up event, there were actual eyewitnesses, hundreds of them. And then Paul goes on to say in verse thirteen, *But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also was vain. Moreover, we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we testified against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised.*

He's making the argument here, if there isn't a resurrection, not even Christ has been raised, and then your faith is just worthless. He finishes this section by saying this. *If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.* That just goes to show you that the Christian faith is willing to be fully examined, and it's not a blind faith. It's a faith based on evidence and faith based on facts, the fact of Christ's resurrection. The Christian faith is real. But more than that, the resurrection guarantees heaven for those who believe in Christ.

Verse 20, I Corinthians 15. *But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. [Are dead]. For since by a man came death, Adam, by a man, Jesus, also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.* In other words, for the believer in Christ, Jesus Christ's resurrection from the grave guarantees that the believer will also be resurrected from their own grave someday. Just to close this section from I Corinthians 15, Paul writes, *Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; [you can't go to heaven with the body you have now] nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, [Believers will all be changed] in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, this is in the future, for the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised, imperishable.* So those who have had perishable bodies who have died and decayed and decomposed, they will be raised with an imperishable body, and we will be changed. *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable body, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then we'll come about the saying that is written, DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory, O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH WHERE IS YOUR STING? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law.* He finishes in verse 57, by saying, *but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

This is the great hope for the believer. A hope based on the assurance of the promises of God. That if you are a believer in Christ, based on the fact of Jesus rising from the dead, that those who believe in Him will also rise from the dead someday and receive an imperishable body fit for heaven. That is the good news, the greatest news of this Easter weekend, that sin and death do not have to be our greatest enemy, but that we can be saved through the person of Jesus Christ and His work for us on the cross. But we must believe in that by faith.

If we reject that, we will rise again as well, but we will rise again with a body fit for judgment and hell. The Bible says, He who believes in the Son has life, eternal life, but he who does not obey the Son, the wrath of God abides on him. The choice is clear, choose Christ, choose eternal life with Him in heaven.

Just listen to this sub story of the big story that needs to be your story. We find this in Luke chapter 23 and also in Matthew as well where it gives the account of these criminals who are crucified on either side of Jesus. Just as some context it says in Matthew that as the criminals were nailed to the cross beside Jesus, both of them were mocking and insulting Jesus. But then we find out in the Gospel of Luke a little more information. Here's where it says, One of the criminals who was hanging there was hurling abuse at Jesus saying, *"Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"* Here he is hanging on the cross in the dying moments of his life and he's still mocking the Son of God. But the other answer, the other criminal answered in rebuking him said, *"Do you not even fear God" he said, "since you are under the same sentence of condemnation, and we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds, but this man [Jesus] has done nothing wrong."* He was saying, this one criminal who had the about face, the change of mind, *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* Jesus said to him, *"Truly I say to you, today, you shall be with me in paradise."* Heaven.

So you have two criminals. They each saw the same Christ on the middle cross, and they responded in two completely different ways. One of the criminals just hurled abuse in a most blasphemous and disbelieving way. "Save yourself and us. Get us down from this cross." But the other, all of a sudden, had this turnaround where he recognized who Jesus was. He expressed that, "I'm a sinner. I deserve it." He said, "we're suffering justly for the wrongs we have done. But this man, Jesus, is innocent. He's done nothing wrong." He understood, this criminal, that the soul lives on after death. He just pleaded with Jesus to remember him. He believed that Jesus was king of the universe and could save him if only Jesus would just remember him. He exercised faith in who Jesus was and what Jesus could do to save him. Jesus affirmed this criminals faith, and he affirmed that he would be in heaven. What's significant about this is it was the last dying moments of his life. This criminal was hanging on the cross and he would soon die and enter eternity. Moments before he was headed to hell he was mocking Christ, not believing in Him. Then minutes later, he went from mocking to believing and asking Jesus to save him. There were no good works involved. He wasn't baptized. He never took communion. He never had last rites administered to him. He never went to church. He never went to Bible study. He never signed a prayer card. He never raised his hand at an evangelistic event or went forward to the front of the auditorium. He just expressed in his words, "I believe in you. Jesus, please save me."

There was no faith in his own goodness, because he didn't have any. There was only faith in God's goodness through the person and work of Christ. It's the sub story of the big story that needs to be your story.

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss,
the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life,
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

We hope like the criminal on the cross, because we're all criminals, sinful criminals before God, that you understand that God is your Creator. He is your just judge. This is a God who loves you and wants to redeem you. I hope you realize that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and the wages of that sin is both physical and eternal death. *But God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ. For by grace you have been saved.*

God is offering you a gift of grace to forgive you and save you from your sins through what Jesus did on the cross. Receive the gift. Don't reject the gift, receive the gift today. Confess that you're a

sinner before God, and believe in Jesus Christ as the one who paid the debt in full that you owe to God for your sin.

I want to thank you for listening to this special edition of The Christian Worldview this Easter weekend. We hope the reading of Scripture and some of the great hymns of the faith has brought a greater understanding and appreciation and love for our God who sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to die for our sins. God proved that those sins were completely covered by raising Him from the dead. If you have never put your faith in Jesus Christ, please go to our website, TheChristianWorldview.org and click on the page, "What must I do to be saved?" Or you can also call us toll free at 1-888-646-2233. All of our contact information will be given again immediately following today's program.

In just a moment there will be information on how you can hear a replay of today's program, order transcripts and resources that we offer, and also support this nonprofit radio ministry. Let's remember that God sent His Son into our sinful world to save sinners like you and me, and that Jesus Christ and His word are the same yesterday, and today and forever. So until next time, Think biblically, live accordingly, and stand firm!

The mission of The Christian Worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that end. To hear a replay of today's program, order a transcript or find out, "What must I do to be saved?" Go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call toll free 1-888-646-2233. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported nonprofit radio ministry furnished by the Overcomer Foundation. To make a donation, become a Christian Worldview Partner, order resources, subscribe to our free newsletter or contact us, visit TheChristianWorldview.org, call 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. That's Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331. Thanks for listening to The Christian Worldview.