

Challenge

Yet with the 'pleasure principle' determining our values and lifestyle more and more, how tragic that the real source of true fulfilment is so readily rejected. Christ Jesus says,

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 10:10

But the greatest challenge of Easter is surely to our indifference. We may even believe that death is just a 'dead end'; whilst God says it's a 'fork in the road'!

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:18

So the really big issue facing each one of us is where we'll spend this life and the life to come to the full. For...

...how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?

Hebrews 2:3



Easter Life to the Full



Life and Death

There was a day when most of us believed in God. When we thought it important to plan for the hereafter.

But in more recent times things have changed.

Nowadays many of us prefer to disregard the longer term and live simply for today.

Yet Easter stands as a timeless challenge to such an outlook and still demands a response from each one of us...



In a day of uncertainty and complacency...

... may we seek Him with an open heart and mind.



Denial

Most of us would rather not believe that we've offended our Maker by breaking His law. But He tells us that such thinking is only self-deception.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

It's a very disturbing thought – the prospect of one day having to stand before Him with our pathetic and pointless excuses because...

...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

Hebrew 9:27

Of course it's as we seriously consider such a fearful event that Easter offers such a wonderful solution.



Sacrifice

The message of Easter is that on the wooden Cross of Calvary, the Lord Jesus Christ – God in the form of man – suffered and died taking the punishment that we deserve for all our wrongdoing.

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

Raised to life again 3 days later He became a 'bridge' spanning the gulf between a Holy God and ordinary people like us.

We cross that bridge when, with His help, we turn away from all we know to be wrong. For...

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness.

1 Peter 2:24

And in asking Christ Jesus into our lives to become our Saviour and Lord we not only receive forgiveness, but a brand new start.

...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Commitment

Of course, given the 'my way' attitude of today, there are those of us who mistakenly believe that if there is a God then perhaps we can 'earn' our way to heaven. But just how wrong could this be! Because in God's sight...

...all our righteous acts are like filthy rags.

Isaiah 64:6

However, though we must receive all that was accomplished for us on the Cross as a free gift, the Lord Jesus makes it clear that it's costly to become one of His true followers because He said...

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23



Relationship

Even that first Easter people found it hard to understand who Jesus really was, especially when He said...

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

John 14:9

They didn't believe what He promised either.

I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

John 11:25,26

Betrayed and abandoned He died the death of a common criminal. Yet the empty tomb is not a symbol of defeat, but of victory!

Down through the centuries millions have entered into a personal relationship with Him – the only way to peace with God and everlasting security. He said...

I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14:6

