

## Sunday School Lesson for Easter 2014

### What Easter Gives Us *Romans 1:1-4, 4:24-25, 8:11*

Sunday, April 20, 2014

We feel like shouting today because this is Easter, and Christ has risen from the dead. But just what does that mean to us here, now, in this twenty-first century? The answer is in the book of Romans, Paul's definitive statement of Christian truth. Three times in Romans, the apostle Paul cites the great implications of Easter.

#### **I. Easter Gives us Confirmation of Christ's Identity [Romans 1: 1-2].**

Paul begins his letter to the Romans with a significant reference to Easter: "Paul... separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophet in the Holy Scripture, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

**How do we know Jesus Christ was truly human- A Man? He descended from the seed of David.**

**How do we know He was truly divine- God? The resurrection verified it.**

Many people have the same misconception that the founders of other world religions have of their claim to be God, but that isn't so. Abraham and Moses, the founders of Judaism, and Buddha didn't claim to be God; however, Mohamed, founder of Islam claims to be Allah. Among the leaders of the world's best-known religions, only Jesus claimed to be God, but what proof did he give? Christ claimed to be God, but what were His credentials? He said "Destroy this temple [referring to His body], and in three days I will raise it up" [John 1: 19]. He said, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and nights in the heart of the earth" [Matthew 12:40]. He thought the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected and killed, and after three days rise again [Mark 8:31]. Easter fulfilled those promises and validated His claims of divinity.

## **II. Easter gives us the Cancellation of Sin's Penalty** **[Romans 4: 24-25].**

“Jesus Our Lord... Was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.” As the Bible Knowledge Commentary puts it: “Christ’s death as God’s sacrificial Lamb [John 1:29] was to pay the redemptive price for the sins of all people [Romans 3:24] so that God might be free to forgive them who respond by faith to that provision. Christ’s resurrection was the proof of God’s acceptance of Jesus’ sacrifice [Rom. 1:4]. Thus because He lives, God can credit His proved righteousness to the account of every person who responds by faith to that offer.

## **III. Easter gives us the Celebration of Life Eternal [Rom. 8-11].**

“But if the spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” [See also Romans 6:1-9]. Those who know and follow Christ have certain hope of a resurrection of our own, of eternal life. Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” [John 11:25-26].

Easter gives us everything our hearts and minds need - Confirmation of Christ’s identity, Cancellation of sin’s penalty, and Celebration of life eternally. All of it is yours for the taking, for the believing, and the accepting.