

RICK WARREN

What
Easter
Means
for
You



Easter is the only holiday we celebrate at sunrise—and there’s a reason for that. On the third day after his crucifixion, at the break of dawn, Jesus’ followers discovered the tomb was empty. Jesus is alive! That one moment changed history, and it will change your life. **Here’s why Easter matters and what it means for you.**

1. Redemption: Your debt is paid.

Through Jesus’ death, the payment we owed for our sin against God has been paid. When God looks at you, he sees the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ that covers your sin.

God has freed us from the power of darkness, and he brought us into the kingdom of his dear Son. The Son paid for our sins, and in him we have forgiveness.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NCV)

All are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:24 (NIV)

Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Hebrews 7:26-27 (NIV)

2. Resurrection: Your Savior lives!

Jesus told his disciples many times that he was the Son of God and that he would rise from the grave. You can trust that Jesus is who he says he is, and he always does what he says he will do.

He is not here; he has risen from the dead. Do you remember what he told you in Galilee? He said the Son of Man must be handed over to sinful people, be crucified, and rise from the dead on the third day.

Luke 24:6-7 (NCV)

Since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. When he died, he died once to break the power of sin. But now that he lives, he lives for the glory of God. So you also should consider yourselves to be dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:8-11 (NLT)

Jesus said to her, "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 (NIV)

3. Victory: The battle is won.

Jesus' resurrection broke the power of death and sin and fear over our lives. Resurrection power doesn't just save you for heaven. It is also available to you every day to help you follow Jesus faithfully.

When you were spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were not free from the power of your sinful self, God made you alive with Christ, and he forgave all our sins. He canceled the debt, which listed all the rules we failed to follow. He took away that record with its rules and nailed it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14 (NCV)

Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

Romans 6:14 (NLT)

I have told you this, so that you might have peace in your hearts because of me. While you are in the world, you will have to suffer. But cheer up! I have defeated the world.

John 16:33 (CEV)

4. Salvation: You can be saved.

God made you to love you and wants you to be part of his forever family. Anyone who confesses their sin and trusts in Jesus—believing that he is God’s Son, that he died for our sins, and that he rose again—will be saved.

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NLT)

The Lord is not slow to do what he has promised, as some think. Instead, he is patient with you, because he does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins.

2 Peter 3:9 (GNT)

5. Hope: Your future is secure.

Anything of this world that you place your hope in will pass away. But Jesus is your living hope. That kind of hope endures through eternity and gives you joy, no matter your circumstances.

Let us hold on firmly to the hope we profess, because we can trust God to keep his promise.

Hebrews 10:23 (GNT)

May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace through your faith in him. Then you will overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (GW)

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father encourage you and strengthen you in every good thing you do and say. God loved us, and through his grace he gave us a good hope and encouragement that continues forever.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NCV)

6. New Life: You can start fresh.

When you accept salvation through Jesus, you become a new person, with new desires, new priorities, a new perspective, and a new way of living.

You have begun to live the new life, in which you are being made new and are becoming like the One who made you. This new life brings you the true knowledge of God.

Colossians 3:10 (NCV)

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6 (CEV)

7. Love: God won't let go.

The cross and resurrection are the ultimate expression of God's love for you. The assurance of his love gives us peace and confidence to live out his mission in the world.

May you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)

God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!

Romans 5:8 (GNT)

Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)



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