



EASTER: THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Easter reminds the world that Jesus was physically resurrected from the dead, and that we can be spiritually resurrected and reborn. This is because the resurrection of Christ brings the future power of God - that will someday heal and renew the entire world - into our lives now. Christians have a realistic and irrepressible hope. It is not a naïve expectation of paradise today, but a hope for our lives and our society that we can participate in the fullness of paradise yet to come. The Resurrection can shape every aspect of our lives---our inner emotional lives, our relationships, our pursuits of justice, and our attitudes toward history and even death itself.

Read: Mark 16:1-7, 1 Corinthians 15:1,3-10, Ephesians 1:17-23

QUESTIONS:

What does Paul mean Ephesians 1:18 about having “the eyes of your heart enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you”?

Christianity is anchored in a historical event, not just a philosophy.

How does the resurrection of Jesus give credence to Christianity over other world religions?

Tim Keller wrote the following in *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*:

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead."

How does (or should) the resurrection of Jesus challenge us to "accept all that he said"?

The Gospel in a nutshell is this: *"We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."* How do you understand this?

