



The Relevance of Easter For Me



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Introduction ~ 1



- **There are so many voices and opinions in the world today. For some of us this is stating the obvious.**
- **But sometimes one needs to state what appears to be the obvious in order to call attention to it's ramifications and the need to make adjustments.**
- **There appears to be no definitive concept of right and wrong. Of course this assertion depends on where in the world you live, the class or group in which you operate on a daily basis.**
- **Some societies offer you every choice so long as it is in agreement with what they want. There is no concept of right and wrong so long as your actions are in solid agreement with what they desire.**



Introduction ~ 2



- **Way back in 1987 in response to whether an accounting treatment was lawful, I was told “Abraham, we live in a wicked world”**
- **I trust that whilst we live in a wicked world we are not part of the wicked in the world.**
- **It seems like everything is possible and yet it seems like nothing is possible.**
- **Today is Easter Sunday.**
- **What is the relevance of Easter for you and I?**
- **Indeed, what is the relevance of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ for you and I?**
- **Should there be a relevance at all?**



Approach and expectation



- **What I intend to do this morning is to share some scriptures with you.**
- **What I would expect from you after sharing these scriptures is for you to make a decision on the relevancy of Easter for you.**
- **I will ensure I do not peddle the scriptures.**
- **When I use the word Easter, for the purposes of this message, please include the death, burial, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven and His return.**



Relevance



- I came across the two concepts or definitions as I prepared for this message:
- Continuing relevance
It attempts to synthesize and explain important historical occurrences and patterns, of continuing relevance to the modern world.
- Cultural relevance
Physical segregation separated nuns from the civic environment, challenging their religious and cultural relevance as well as their economic stability.
- **TIMELESS AND BOUNDLESS**
Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever.



Some aspects of relevance



- **Whatever brings benefits and enhances the standard of life as found in scripture (according to God's holy order) must be considered relevant.**
- **In determining relevance, one must also factor in the consequences of not having access to something.**
- **I am now referring to what the blood of Christ is designed to achieve and how to apply it. Please listen to this:**
- **13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,**
- **14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:13 – 14)**



Some aspects of relevance ~ 1



- **The passage we have just read talks of the conscience.**
- **So in this context, relevance relates to the areas of our lives in which a product is effective or applicable.**
- **But the blood of Christ does more than cleanse the consciences but the whole body. It is within the reach of all sincere God fearing person.**
- **We are talking about accessibility and the ease thereof.**
- **That which you will never have access to is not relevant. This has nothing to do with dreaming the impossible dream.**



Some aspects of relevance ~ 2



- Let us now consider a passage of scripture that covers the cleaning of every human sin.

- 1 John 1:7 - 9

7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

8 ¶ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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Some aspects of relevance ~ 3



- **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Some aspects of relevance ~ 4



- Longevity
- Hebrews 13:20
Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
- The blood of the everlasting covenant,
- If the covenant is eternal, then the blood is eternal
- Is this not the very signification of continuing relevance?



Healed by His wounds



- **1 Peter 2:24**

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

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Evidence in our lives



- **2 Corinthians 4:10**

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

- **Galatians 2:20**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 6:17

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.



The resurrection



- **1 Corinthians 15:12 – 19**

12 ¶ Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise.



The resurrection ~ continued



- **1 Corinthians 15:12 – 19**

16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.



Centrality of the resurrection



- You must now understand the very centrality of the message of Easter.
- Everything that the sincere Christian does is anchored on the Easter story, the pinnacle of which is the resurrection of Christ.
- Little wonder the devil and his agents will go every length to say it was all a hoax.
- Little wonder the early church fathers included the bodily resurrection in their creeds or statements of faith.



The Easter story



- **At the heart of God's dealings with humanity is the Easter story.**
- **In the economy of God, the Easter Story holds all things together.**
- **At the heart of the Easter story is the cross of Christ**
- **This is because the cross of Christ is both horizontal and vertical. The cross is both "man-ward" and "God-ward" in its purposes and effectiveness.**
- **Any purported dealing of God with man that bypasses or circumnavigates the cross of the Christ (the Easter story) must be considered false, pseudo, counterfeit and ultimately Satanic!**
- **The Easter story is God's solution for the world and therefore its implications must be studied carefully.**



What do you choose to believe?



- We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.
- And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
- He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end. (*The Nicene Creed in part*)
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Conclusion



- Do you remember that I said I would like a response from you on the matter of the relevance of Easter?
- Having heard the very little bit that I have shared with you on some of the things pertaining to Easter, what is your verdict?
- What is your conclusion?
- How will your conclusion affect your daily living?

