

IT'S A NEW DAY

Mercy – Part 1

“1 Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to the tomb. 2 Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. 3 His face shone like lightning and his clothing was a brilliant white. 4 The guards shook with fear when they saw him and fell into a dead faint. 5 Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be frightened!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, 6 but he isn’t here! For he has come back to life again, just as he said he would. Come in and see where his body was lying... 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and that he is going to Galilee to meet them there. That is my message to them.” 8 The women ran from the tomb, badly frightened, but also filled with joy, and rushed to find the disciples to give them the angel’s message. 9 And as they were running, suddenly Jesus was there in front of them! “Good morning!” he said. And they fell to the ground before him, holding his feet and worshiping him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be frightened! Go tell my brothers to leave at once for Galilee, to meet me there.” Matthew 28:1-10 (TLB)

Why is Easter So Important?

KEY OBSERVATION: Because it proved that Jesus Christ was telling the **TRUTH**.

“A new day will dawn on us because our God is loving and merciful.” Luke 1:78 (GW)

MERCY: Is undeserved **FORGIVENESS** & unearned **KINDNESS**

“1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.” 1 Corinthians 15:1, 3-7 (TNIV)

“18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. Galatians 1:18-19 (TNIV)

Two Key Things Paul’s Letters Prove About the Resurrection of Jesus:

#1: It was not a result of decades of **STORY TELLING**.

#2: Belief in the resurrection was documented while eye witnesses were still **ALIVE**.

BOTTOM LINE: The **BIBLE** didn’t create Christianity. **CHRIST FOLLOWERS** didn’t create Christianity. The **RESURRECTION** of Jesus Christ created Christianity.

“10 It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.’ 13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. 19 Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! 20 As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Acts 4:10, 12-13, 19-20 (TNIV)

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die...” John 11:25 (NIV)

“Anyone who asks for mercy from the Lord shall have it and shall be saved.” Acts 2:21 (LB)

“The Lord God is waiting to show you how kind he is and to have mercy on you. The Lord always does what’s right and he blesses those who trust him!” Isaiah 30:18 (CEV)