

Happy Easter!

Easter is the highest holy day for followers of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is what separates Christianity from other world religions. If you spend time studying the Resurrection, you are bound to have questions.

Q3: Did God really forsake Jesus on the cross?

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Remember those words? It is common for many to believe that this means that God the Father broke fellowship with Jesus for a time as Jesus died on the cross.

Problem #1: Jesus was *not* shocked. Jesus knew that He was going to suffer and die. He was not shocked. This kind of cruel suffering and death was not a surprise for the Son of God (see Mark 10:33-34).

Problem #2: God *can* look a sin. This whole idea is built on a misinterpretation of Habakkuk 1:13 which says that "God's eyes are too pure to look on evil." Think about it...If God cannot even look at sin, how can He look at us?

Problem #3: Jesus *bore*, not *became*, our sin. Jesus told His disciples that His death would be a "ransom for many." Other NT authors state that he "bore our sins on the cross." Isaiah said that Jesus would be "pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities."

Problem #4: Fellowship *cannot* be broken. Fellowship among the Godhead cannot be broken. Period. It is theologically impossible for God the Father to break His perfect unity with Jesus or the Holy Spirit.

The Resurrection proves that Jesus bore our sins on the cross and God the Father was with Him every excruciating moment. **God never abandoned Him and God will never abandon you.**

Q4: Did Jesus descend into hell?

"I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell."

These are words from a portion of the Apostle's Creed. The idea that Jesus descended into hell between His death and resurrection can be attributed to the early versions of this creed. There are problems with this idea though and careful study of Scripture will show you that the passages commonly referenced to support the idea have been misunderstood. Space does not allow for that explanation in detail here, but some of the issues will follow.

Problem #1: Jesus believed His "spirit" would be with His Father in "paradise" upon his death (Luke 23:43, 46). In the passion narrative Jesus committed His spirit to God and told the thief that they would be together with God. There is no mention of hell.

Problem #2: Words mean things! Some translations of Ephesians 4:9 translated the Greek Paul used as "He also descended into the lower parts (or regions) of the earth." The Greek combined the original words and instead of both being nouns, one becomes like an adjective. Lower then becomes a comparison to Heaven. Earth is lower than Heaven...

Problem #3: Imprisoned spirits whom God waited patiently on (1 Peter 3:19-20). God did not wait patiently to banish fallen angels. Why would Jesus minister to the lost from Noah's days and not from other days? Further, there's no teaching that OT believers went to hell.

Family Night Big Idea

During this series we are going to provide you with a link to a series of videos designed to help you teach the meaning of Easter to your children (www.gracestatesboro.com, our app (Search GCCStatesboro) and Facebook pages).

[The Bedbug Bible Gang: Easter Party!](#) (Also available on RightNow Media)

[5-Minute Family Devotional—Easter Week](#) (Also available on RightNow Media)

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Velocity this Wednesday, April 12

Gravity: Students stay and enjoy "Good Questions".

Today's Songs

Glorious Day.....Passion

King of Kings.....Hillsong

God Really Loves Us.....Crowder

Mighty to Save.....Hillsong

Foundations Golf Tournament

April 28th at Willow Lake in Metter. Need players and sponsors. Check out the flyer in the Lobby.

Summer Camp Volunteers

We are assembling our team of workers for Summer Camp 2023. Dates are June 12th-16th. We need you! If you can help, please fill out the form in the lobby and place in the green Lego box. We will contact you soon with details.

SubSplash

We are changing software. You will need to get our new app on your phone if you want to receive church messages. Messages will no longer be by text. Instead, you will get notifications on the app. Go to App Store or Play Store and type in "gccstatesboro" and look for GCC Logo.