

EASTER SUNDAY HANDOUT: "If There Had Been No Easter"

TODAY WE CELEBRATE RESSURECTION SUNDAY! CHRIST HAS RISEN! WE ARE FORGIVEN... AND FOR THOSE OF US...IN CHRIST...OUR ETERNAL HOPE IS SURE! **READ LUKE 24:2-12**

Today We Celebrate that Christ Died on a Cross...Was Buried and Sealed In a tomb with Roman Soldiers Guarding it and then on the 3rd Day...Christ Arose from the Grave!

- After Which Jesus was Seen by Mary, the Disciples and more than 500 people Before Ascending Back to Heaven as Our King and Our Great High Priest!

This is Our HOPE Not Just that Jesus Died for Our Sins...But by Raising Jesus from the Dead God the Father Confirmed Gods Acceptance of Forgiveness of Our Sin!

Question...*What If There Had Been NO Easter?* Consider What Our Future Would Be Without a Savior. When we do We Become Filled with Gratitude and Thankfulness for What Christ Did for Us on the Cross!

Harry Houdini was a Magician that Specialized in Spectacular Escapes. Harry died in October 1926, Harry told his wife, if there is any way out, I will find it and make Contact with You on the Anniversary of My Death. For 10 years she waited At the end of 10 years, she turned out the light. Harry Couldn't Escape.

Death laid hands on the Lord Jesus Christ also and put Jesus in a rock-hewn tomb. But on the 3RD day, Jesus Christ Rose From the Sleep of Death. He left those grave clothes, wrapped around him like a butterfly would forsake a cocoon. And Jesus Christ passed through the walls of that rock- hewn tomb.

- *Note: the stone Wasn't Rolled Away to let Jesus Out. It was Rolled Away to Let the Disciples In to See that Jesus had Risen!* Jesus is Alive. He's Not in a Tomb.

Suppose Death Still held Jesus like it does Harry Houdini. Suppose There had Been NO Easter. READ I Cor. Chapter 15:12-19. If There's No Easter, there are 6 Tragic things We Need to Consider:

#1: Preaching is Profitless. Verse 14 *If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless."*

- The word Useless means empty, futile, with no purpose, a waste of time. **KEY:** No One can preach the Gospel Unless he Preaches the Resurrection of Jesus. Without that Preaching it's Profitless.
- If Christ is Not Risen...You're Trusting Something that Doesn't Deserve Your Trust! **If You Don't Believe that God Raised Him also from the Dead...Your Faith Is Vain.**
- The difference between Jesus Christ and the Founders of Other Religions. Confucius, Mohammad, and more...They lived, they died, they are Dead. **Unlike all the others, Jesus Escaped Death.**
- *When God Raised Jesus from the Dead, that was God's Stamp of Approval that Everything that Jesus said, Did and Taught was Absolutely True.*

#2: A Dead Savior is Nobody's Savior.

#3: Third if Christ be Not Raised, then the Disciples are Deceivers. Verse 15. I Want You to Catch the Gist of Paul's Argument...Paul is Not saying "IF" Christ is Still in the Grave We Were Mistaken...Paul Says, "IF" Christ Has Not Been Raised We Are False Witnesses. **Committing Perjury**

- Most of these disciples paid with their very life's Blood for Testimony and their Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Disciples Were Martyrs...NOT FALSE WITNESSES and LIARS!!!

#4: If there be NO Easter, if Christ is still in that Grave...Sin Reigns Sovereign! Verse 17 When God Raised Jesus up from the Grave We have Proof Positive that Full Payment for Our Sin has Been Made!

- Paul said, "He was Delivered up for our Offenses and he was Raised for Our Justification."
- **That means Jesus dying for our sins is incomplete until God raised him from the dead. "Delivered for our Offenses and Raised for Our Justification."**

No Resurrection...No Savior. No Savior...No Forgiveness. No Forgiveness...No Justification... No Justification...No Cleansing. And With No Cleansing...the Penalty of Your Sin is Upon YOU.

- And if that is YOU...Today, You are Destined for Eternal Death in Hell.
- There is an Old Hymn that says, *"Living he loved me, dying he saved me, buried he carried my sins far away, rising he justified, freely forever. One day he's coming, oh glorious day."*

#5: Vs 18, *Then those also who have Fallen Asleep in Christ are Lost.*" Death has Won and Life is a Bad Dream. And...If there be No Easter, then Death has Dominion, Death has Conquered. **And Not Only does Death have Dominion...But You're Future is Futile.**

#6: Verse 19 *"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."* If this is All there is, then the Bad News is...Good times are But for a Moment and it's Going to Get Worse.

- Listen, Without a Risen Christ We are of All Men Most Miserable.
- The Future is Fearful and Futile if Christ be Not Raised. Praise God Jesus has Risen!

Vs 20, But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the First-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Because He has Risen: Preaching the Gospel is Profitable, Faith is Feasible, the Disciples Messages are Dependable, Sin is Subdued, Death is Defeated, and the Future is Fabulous Because Christ has Been Raised from the Dead. Christ has taken the Sting out of Sin and He has Given Us a Steadfast Hope!

Rom 6:23 *"For the wages of sin is death, but the "GIFT" of God is Eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

- What we Earned because of our Sin is Separation from God for All Eternity.
- By Accepting God's Free Gift We Gain Eternal Life through Christ Our Savior.
- Read Rom 10: 9-10 tells us how to gain This Free Gift that Christ Provided and have Eternal Life

If You have Tossed Aside Gods "Free Gift" of Salvation Just like the Son did with his Fathers gift of the Bible with the Check inside for a New Car... Because You Felt You Could Not Believe that Jesus Christ was Raised from the Dead... I Urge You to Make Time to Read Gods Word and to Consider the Hundreds of People that Saw Christ After He had Risen from the Dead.

Consider this...There are Only 2 Ways to Prove Anything:

- Scientific Method: Test Tube...Reproduce the Same Results. In this Situation This Would Be Impossible!
- Legal Method: Like Witnesses in a Court...I saw the Blue Car hit the Red Car

LISTEN: God Provided Proof of Christ's Resurrection...the Only Way He Could Through the Legal Method...With not just 1 or 2...But with Hundreds of Witnesses.

- He Provided this Proof Because He Wants You To Accept that He Loves You and that He Sent His Son Jesus to Die for Your Sins and then He Raised Jesus Up from the Dead...Proving God Accepted His Sacrifice for Our Sin.
- This Sacrifice and God's Acceptance...Gives Us A Perfect Standing Before God!
- Hebrews 10:10 says, *We Have Been Made Holy (PERFECT) through the Sacrifice of the Body of Jesus Christ Once for All!*

"LIFE" POINT: (Max Lucado) **"God Did What We Could Not Do So We Can Be What We Dare Not Dream: Perfect Before God."**