

Easter 2023 HANDOUT

4.9.23

Easter is the greatest promise ever made - starting in Genesis

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

- This was looking forward to Jesus death, burial, & resurrection

“If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is! We are eery of anything or anyone that tells us we can have something for nothing.

How can God offer forgiveness for my sins and life eternally with Him for nothing?

KEY: God has never made a promise that was too good to be true.

God gave us “Emptiness” that is full of promises.

Empty Cross: Promise of Forgiven Sins.

LUKE 23:52-54 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. 53 Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. 54 It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

The Promise of the Empty Cross is that You and I Stand Forgiven. Because it was on that Cross that Jesus Paid the Penalty for Our SINS.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The empty cross is a reminder of God’s Promise that we have been forgiven.

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

It was On that Cross that Jesus Christ Offered His Perfect, Sinless Life on Our behalf.

Acts 4:12 - Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

- It is finished - *tetelestai*, an accounting term that means “paid in full.”

Matthew 28:1-6 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

We Too Can Live Even If We Die. **That is the Second Promise of Easter.**

Matthew 28:11-15 The authorities tried to cover up what had happened - they were afraid that Jesus might actually do what He said He would do!

John 20:3-8 “...He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head.”

Peter found the Clothes that Jesus had been Buried in. They Too Were Empty...Which could Only Mean One Thing – JESUS WAS ALIVE!

Promise of the Empty Burial Clothes – Jesus is Alive, and Wants to Fellowship with Each of Us!

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.”*

POINT: God turns emptiness into hope through Christ!