



Easter



THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

April 1, 2018

Wonderful Mercy Church



For Whom Does Easter Change Everything?

- Easter changes everything for the women who go to the tomb
- Mary Magdalene becomes the first evangelist of the post-Easter age
- **Psalm 68:11** PASSION TRANSLATION
“God Almighty declares the word of the gospel with power, and the warring women of Zion deliver its message.”



For Whom Does Easter Change Everything?

- It's not an accident of history that women are at the vanguard of this upstart kingdom movement
- **Galatians 3:28** PASSION TRANSLATION
“And we no longer see each other in our former state—Jew or non-Jew, rich or poor, male or female—because we're all one through our union with Jesus Christ with no distinction between us.”



For Whom Does Easter Change Everything?

- Easter changes everything for Peter, who goes back to the family fishing business, figuring that's all he's really cut out for
- Peter's failure was public, personal, spectacular, and devastating



For Whom Does Easter Change Everything?

- Easter changes everything for the powerless. It changes everything for failures. For the lost, the luckless, and the lonely, it changes everything. And, significantly, it's the non-negotiable component of Christian belief

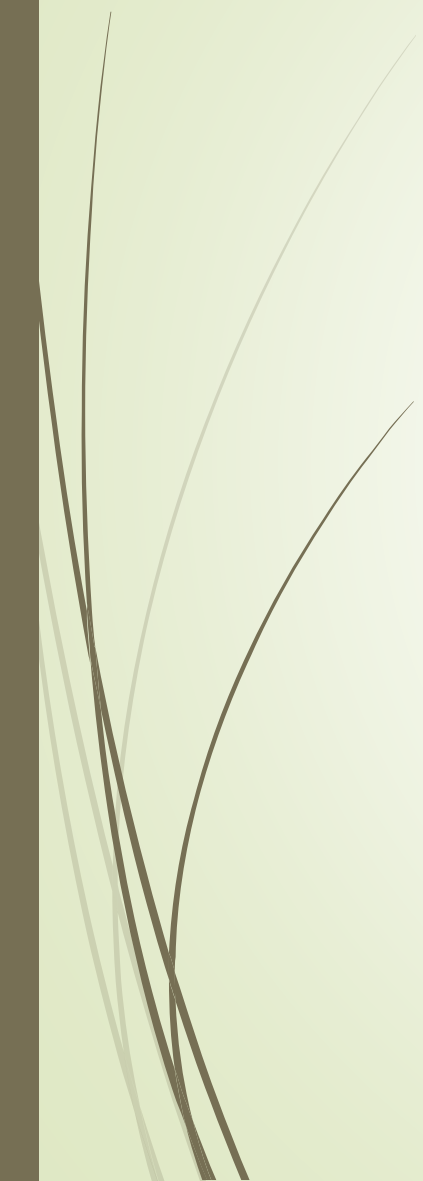


1 Corinthians 15:14

- MSG: “And face it—if there’s no resurrection for Christ, everything we’ve told you is smoke and mirrors, and everything you’ve staked your life on is smoke and mirrors.”
- AMP: “And if Christ has not risen, then our preaching is in vain [it amounts to nothing] and your faith is devoid of truth and is fruitless (without effect, empty, imaginary, and unfounded).”



Travelling to the Tomb

- The women went to the tomb in the endless winter of loss
 - They were there to embalm the corpse of the one upon whom they had pinned all their hopes
 - That's when, out of nowhere, Easter said to them: *"No winter lasts forever. This changes everything."*
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How Do Things Look to You?

- It matters because where your focus is, there your future is
- The question of Easter is: “Have you seen Jesus?”
- Once you’ve seen Jesus, that’s when you know: his plans for us are good, giving us a hope and a future



In Our Endless Winter We Run To God

➤ **2 Corinthians 1:8b-10** MSG

It was so bad we didn't think we were going to make it. ⁹ We felt like we'd been sent to death row, that it was all over for us. As it turned out, it was the best thing that could have happened. Instead of trusting in our own strength or wits to get out of it, we were forced to trust God totally—not a bad idea since he's the God who raises the dead! ¹⁰ And he did it, rescued us from certain doom. *And* he'll do it again, rescuing us as many times as we need rescuing.

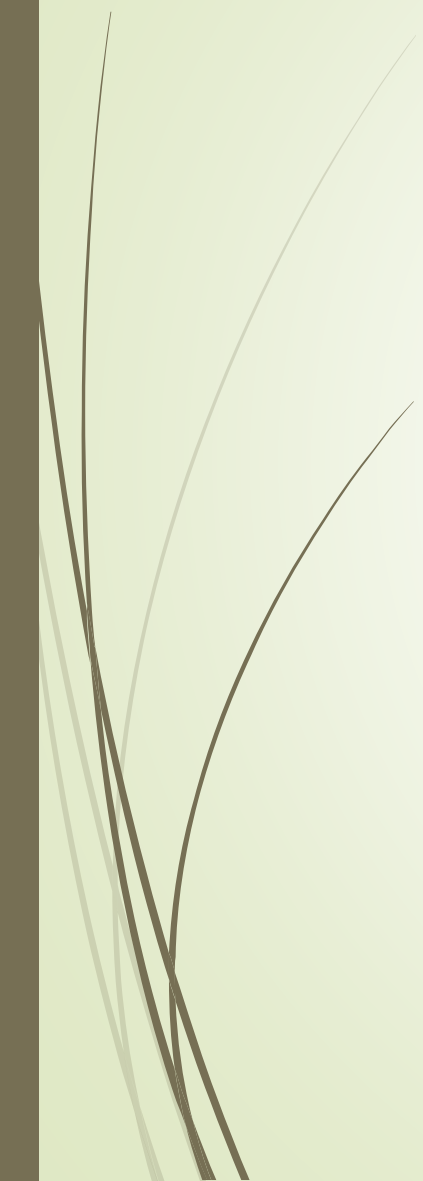


In Our Endless Winter We Run To God



Isaiah 8:11-14a NLT96

The Lord has said to me in the strongest terms: “Do not think like everyone else does. Do not be afraid that some plan conceived behind closed doors will be the end of you. Do not fear anything except the Lord Almighty. He alone is the Holy One. If you fear him, you need fear nothing else. He will keep you safe.”





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