

THE HEART OF EASTER

Matthew 28:6; 2 Timothy 1:10

Introduction: For many, the heart of Easter is a bunny rabbit with colored eggs or parents boiling eggs and then dying them different colors and writing on them or sticking cute little stickers on the eggs, then hiding them in the yard and watching their children hunt for them. However the real meaning, the heart of Easter has nothing to do with bunny rabbits or eggs.

- 1. The heart of Easter is:** *"...Christ hath abolished death and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel..." (2 Timothy 1:10)*
- 2. Funerals of Christians and non-Christians are different.** People who have no faith in Jesus Christ are without hope for they have no hope of a resurrection to eternal life with Him in Heaven.
- 3. The most wonderful claim ever made is** *"...Christ has risen from the dead..."* There have been a lot of wonderful things declared by science and medical discoveries but none come close to the claim that Jesus has risen from the dead.
- 4. Multitudes don't believe in the resurrection.** There have been wars by cynics, starvation and distress by the pessimists and trials and despair by the stoic and there are those who silently suffer for lack of belief.
- 5. A hole on a sandy beach quickly disappears when the tide rushes in.** The same thing happens to death for the believer as it is swallowed up in God's love and grace.
- 6. Death has no fear to the Christian.** Death is simply a transition, a releasing of the mind and soul, it is FREEDOM at last for the believer in Jesus Christ.
- 7. The Christian has no fear of death.** Death is no longer an unknown, dark end to life for Jesus has illuminated it and all has been revealed by Jesus Christ.
- 8. The world has always hoped that there was life beyond the grave.** Stories have been created, dreams have been dreamed, religions have made up their own beliefs, (reincarnation), Job spoke of it and David wrote about it, and now Jesus Christ has proven it. Jesus has drawn back the curtain.
- 9. Life can now have meaning and purpose.** Who, What, How, Where are all answered in God's acts of love and grace found through the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 10. Because Jesus Christ lives, so shall believers in Him.** Jesus Christ's resurrection is the guarantee, the foundation of the Christian's faith.
- 11. Why were the early Christians persecuted so?** They preached that Jesus Christ was God and that He was resurrected from the dead.
- 12. 1 Corinthians 15:17 -** If Christ be not risen, we would still be in our sins and our faith in vain.

13. Human effort cannot achieve eternal life. Religions have tried for centuries but only Jesus Christ can bring victory over death. Refuse Jesus Christ's resurrection and there is no hope.

CONCLUSION:

1. Have YOU accepted Jesus Christ's offer of eternal life? Have you become a part of His victory over death?
2. The most amazing and transforming factor human history is that Jesus Christ is alive.
"...He is not here, for He is risen..."
3. Right now, by trust, by faith, by accepting Jesus Christ as your Savior, your Lord, you can know forgiveness and have a new life.
 - You can have peace of soul, assurance of conscience that Jesus Christ lives and that you shall also live eternally in Heaven with Him and God's family.