



Why Easter Matters

By Mr. Alexander S. Brown, Minister

TOWARDS the end of this month churches throughout the world, united by the Church Calendar, will celebrate the annual feast of Easter. As with Christmas, the popular understanding of this holiday is very different from how we understand it - for those of us within the Church, we know that Easter is so much more than Easter bunnies, and chocolate eggs.

However, it is vital for us to not get caught up in the religiosity of the holiday either. As we celebrate Easter we know that we are celebrating the resurrection of Christ, but it is crucial that we see just how significant this fact is. It is crucial that we see that what we celebrate at Easter is a central tenet of our faith, and possibly even *the* central tenet of our faith. As we celebrate the resurrection of

Christ at Easter, we are not simply celebrating one aspect of His saving work, but the lynch-pin by which it all holds together. The doctrine of the physical resurrection of Christ is the doctrine upon which all other doctrines rest.

What we celebrate at Easter is not just a happy ending to the story, but it is the very guarantee of our salvation!

IN First Corinthians 15:14 the Apostle Paul described the importance of Christ's resurrection (and so, the importance of Easter) like this - *if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.* Paul uses incredibly strong language to press home the vital importance of Christ's resurrection, and goes so

far as to say that if there was no resurrection, then there is no salvation. The whole plan of redemption is held together by the resurrection of Christ.

Commenting on this verse A. A. Hodge, the son of C. H. Hodge and professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton, observed that there are seven reasons why the Resurrection of Christ is crucially important.

1. If Christ be risen indeed, then he is the true Messiah, and all the prophecies of both dispensations have in that fact a pledge of their fulfillment. If he is not risen, then they are all false.
2. The resurrection proved him to be the Son of God, Rom. 1:4, for (1) he rose by his own power, (2) it authenticated all his claims with respect to himself.
3. In the resurrection of Christ the Father publicly declared his approbation and acceptance of Christ's work as surety of his people - Rom. 4:25.
4. If Christ has risen, we have an advocate with the Father - Rom. 8:34; Heb. 9, 11, 12, 24.
5. If Christ be raised, we have assurance of eternal life; if he lives, we shall live also - John 14:19; 1 Pet. 1:3-5.
6. Owing to the union between Christ and his members, which is both federal and spiritual, his resurrection secures ours, (1) because, as we died in Adam, so we must live in Christ, 1 Cor. 15:21, 22; (2) because of his Spirit, who dwells in us - Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 6:15; 1 Thess. 4:14.
7. Christ's resurrection illustrates and determines the nature of our resurrection as well as secures it - 1 Cor. 15:49; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2.

(Continued on the next page)



April Calendar

Sunday

Sunday School • 9:30 a.m.
"Overview of Church History"

Morning Worship • 10:30 a.m.
"Mark: A Confrontation with Christ"

Evening Worship • 6:00 p.m.
"Jonah"

Nursery, Children's Church available

Wednesday

Midweek Prayer Meeting • 7:00 p.m.
"Praying with the Psalms"

Sun	3/27	IPC Youth Choir at GIPC 10:30 a.m. Worship
Sun	4/3	Communion, AM Worship
Tue	4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26—	Men's Breakfast Bible Study Sandcastle Café, 7:30 a.m.
Tue	4/5	"Beyond the Pages" Book Discussion Group for Women; Taylor home, 6:00 p.m.
Thu	4/7	Mission Committee Meeting Huddleston home, 6:30 p.m.
Tue	4/12, 4/19, 4/26—	Women's Bible Study Brown home, 6:30 p.m.
Fri	4/15	Mission Awareness Movie Night at GIPC
Sun	4/17	Palm Sunday
Tue	4/19	Savannah River Presbytery Liberty P.C., Sylvania, GA
Sun	4/24	Easter Sunday Community Sunrise Service SSI Pier—6:30 a.m.
Thu	4/28	WIC Leadership Team Meeting Dr. Bowen's office, 5:00 p.m.
Thu	4/28	CE Committee Meeting, 6:45 p.m.

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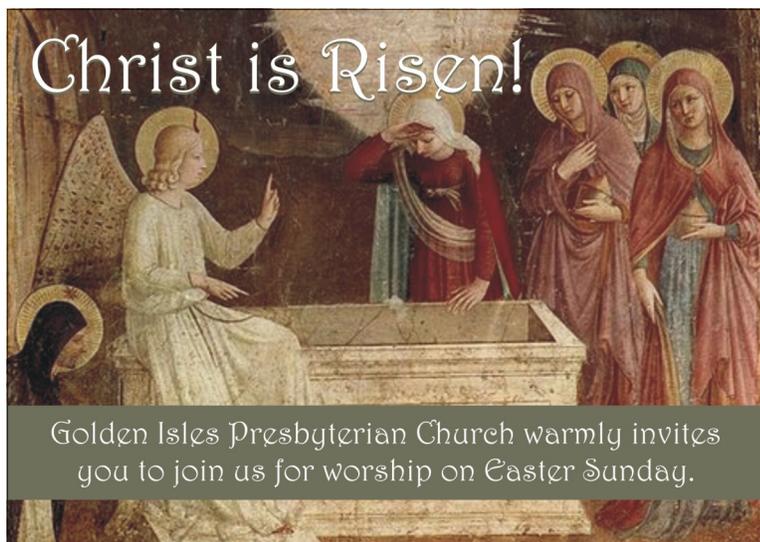
Why Easter Matters

(Continued from the previous page)

WHAT we celebrate at Easter is not just a happy ending to the story, but it is the very guarantee of our salvation! For Christ to be raised from the grave means that we *know* that He has won the victory over sin; it means that we *know* that the sting of death has been removed; it means that we *know* that our hope is sure and certain because in His resurrection Christ has been shown to be a sure and certain Savior, who fulfills all the promises of salvation, who has won the victory over death, and who now sits at the right hand of God the Father as the guarantee of our salvation.

As we look at the empty tomb we see the faithfulness of God – we see God who did what He said He would do, and fulfilled His promises of salvation. We see the head of the serpent crushed by the bruised heel of the seed of the woman; we see the curse of the covenant perfectly fulfilled; we see the perfect Redemption through the sea of death, delivering us into the promised land of union with God; we see the greatest battle won, and our King ushering in His perfect Kingdom.

At Easter we see nothing less than the guarantee of our salvation. How do we know that the Gospel is true, and that we are united with God through faith? Because the tomb was empty. That is the Good News of Easter. ▪



Saint Simons Christian School Tax Credit Program.

Did you know you can make a donation to Saint Simons Christian School and the next time you file your income taxes you can get it back through a state tax credit?

This is made possible by a wonderful program the State of Georgia started in 2008 called the Private School Tuition Tax Credit Program. Each year the state sets aside \$50 million for state tax credits for donations to private schools in Georgia.

This is a tax credit and not just a deduction. As a credit, your state taxes will decrease by the amount you donate, up to a maximum of \$2500 for a couple, or \$1000 for a single.

This is a great way to help the school, but it is also a way to help GIPC as the school has said that if any member of GIPC is willing to make a contribution to the school through this program, they will pass 100% of their portion of that contribution to GIPC in order to pay down their outstanding debt to us.

If you would like to take part in this program, or would like more information, there are information packets available in the church lobby. Alternatively, you can contact Kelly Williams, Development Assistant for SCS, at (912) 634-8177.

Building & Grounds



As we move out of Winter and into the Spring and Summer months the Building and Grounds Committee is focusing attention on the outside of our building.

The outside grounds, and especially the entrance to our building, are the first impression visitors have about our church and so we want these places to provide a beautiful and welcoming experience.

Toward the end of last summer our Sprinkler System stopped working – which I am sure most of you noticed by the subsequent death of our front lawn.

The B&G Committee has made the restoration of the lawn a top priority. However, before we can begin thinking about re-turfing or re-seeding the front lawn, we need to get the sprinkler system repaired. We received an estimate for the total repair of the system, to bring it back to fully-functional status, of \$1,400.

We are asking for people to consider this need, and if you are able in any way to help with any part of the cost of this repair to get in touch with the B&G Committee, or simply leave a donation in the offering plate labeled “B&G Sprinkler.”

The Sprinkler System is a foundational piece of our landscaping. Once the Sprinkler System is back in working order, we can get our lawn back in order.

We are asking for people to consider this need.

Significant Sessional Actions

- Approved request for Mr. Alexander Brown to speak at Smyrna Presbyterian Church's Annual Camp Meeting over the weekend of 24, 25, 26 June.
- Approved request to host a Paul Anderson Youth Home Family Conference in the Fall of 2011.

Women in the Church (WIC)

The **Women's Bible Study** meets at 6:30 p.m. each Tuesday evening except the first, at the home of Sara Brown.

“Beyond the Pages” is a Book Discussion Group for Women meeting at 6:00 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at Sue Taylor's home.

The April selection, to be discussed on Tuesday, April 5th, is *Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John. The May book of the month is *The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett.

I'm Addicted



thegospelcoalition.org

I'M ADDICTED TO THE GOSPEL. It burns inside of me. And it seems to get hotter ever day. I can't stop thinking about it, talking about it, writing about it, reading about it, wrestling with it, reveling in it, standing on it, and thanking God for it. For better or for worse, my focus has become myopic. My passion has become singular. Lesser things don't distract me as easily. I'm not as anxious as I used to be. I don't fret over things as much. I'm more relaxed. What others think of me (either good or bad) doesn't matter as much as it used to. I'm enjoying life more. The pressure's off. I actually think I'm beginning to understand the length and breadth of the freedom Jesus purchased for me.

Jesus plus nothing equals everything—the gospel— is daily becoming for me more than a theological passion, more than a cognitive reality. It's becoming my functional lifeline! And it's this rediscovery of the gospel's power that is enabling me to see that,

- Because Jesus was strong for me, I am *free* to be weak;
- Because Jesus won for me, I am *free* to lose;
- Because Jesus was Someone, I am *free* to be no one;
- Because Jesus was extraordinary, I am *free* to be ordinary;
- Because Jesus succeeded for me, I am *free* to fail.

This is beginning to define my life in brand new, bright, and liberating ways. I believe God wants this liberating truth to define your life as well...and the life of the church corporately. Because I'm telling you right now, when you begin to understand that everything you need and long for, in Christ you already possess—it enables you to live a life of scandalous freedom, unrestrained fearlessness, and unbounded courage. When you don't have anything to lose, you discover something wonderful: you're free! Nothing in this broken world can beat a man who isn't afraid to lose! And when you're not afraid to lose you can say crazy, counterintuitive stuff like, "To live is Christ and to die is gain!" That's pure, unadulterated freedom.

This is why I tweet as much as I do. I'm processing the gospel all day long in 140 characters. Therefore, from time to time I post some of my more recent tweets to show you how God is working the gospel deeper into me and what I'm learning. Twitter has become for me an online personal journal. I hope you can benefit from the things God is teaching me.

Enjoy...

- The banner under which Christians live reads "It is finished."
- Our security is in Christ's achievement for us, so now we're free to admit our weaknesses without feeling like our flesh is being ripped off our bones.
- Only when you realize that the gospel has nothing to do with your obedience but Christ's obedience for you, will you start to obey!
- At no point in time, either before God saves you or after, does your behavior determine God's love for you.
- Since a Christian's value and identity is anchored in Christ and is not anchored in being right, the gospel frees us to admit we're wrong.
- The gospel frees us from trying to impress people, prove ourselves to people, and make people think we're something that we're not.
- The gospel transforms us precisely because it's not itself a message about our transformation but Christ's substitution.
- The gospel frees us to realize that while we matter, we're not the point.
- "Doing" will become instinctive and spontaneous only when our hearts become deeply gripped by what's been done!
- Only the gospel can liberate us from the miserable, unquenchable pursuit to make something of ourselves by using others.
- Because everything we long for we already possess in Christ, we're now free to love people, not use them.
- Our improvement comes from God's approval; God's approval does not come from our improvement.
- Christ fulfilled all of God's conditions on our behalf so that our relationship with God could be unconditional.
- The gospel frees you from the pressure of having to make something out of yourself.
- Christian, the level of passion with which God loves you is not determined by the level of passion with which you love Him. The Son's passion for you secured the Father's passion for you.

Posted by Tullian Tchividjian, Senior Pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church, on 3 March, 2011. Reprinted by permission. <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/tullian>

APRIL

"O send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead me." (Psalm 43:3)

Family Worship

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Leviticus	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		11,12	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		13	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		14	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		15	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		16	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
24	Numbers	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		7	<input type="checkbox"/>

APRIL

"O send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead me." (Psalm 43:3)

Family Worship

Psalms Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Psalms	1,2	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		3,4	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		5,6	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		7,8	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		11,12	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		13,14	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		15,16	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		17	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		18	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		19	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		20,21	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		23,24	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		26,27	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		28,29	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
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24		35	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		36	<input type="checkbox"/>
26		37	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		38	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		39	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		40,41	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		42,43	<input type="checkbox"/>

APRIL

"O send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead me." (Psalm 43:3)

Private

Old Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Proverbs	19	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		20	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		21	<input type="checkbox"/>
4		22	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		23	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		24	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		25	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		26	<input type="checkbox"/>
9		27	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		28	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		29	<input type="checkbox"/>
12		30	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		31	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Ecclesiastes	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
18		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		7	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		8	<input type="checkbox"/>
22		9	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		10	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		11	<input type="checkbox"/>
25		12	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Song of Solomon	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		5	<input type="checkbox"/>

APRIL

"O send out Thy light and Thy truth; let them lead me." (Psalm 43:3)

Private

New Testament Reading

Date	Book	Chapter	✓
1	Colossians	2	<input type="checkbox"/>
2		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
3		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	I Thess.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
5		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
6		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
7		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
8		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	II Thess.	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
10		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
11		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	I Timothy	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
13		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
14		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
15		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
16		5	<input type="checkbox"/>
17		6	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	II Timothy	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
19		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
20		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
21		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Titus	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
23		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
24		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
25	Philemon	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
26	Hebrews	1	<input type="checkbox"/>
27		2	<input type="checkbox"/>
28		3	<input type="checkbox"/>
29		4	<input type="checkbox"/>
30		5	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week beginning MARCH 27

Psalms 121:1-2

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

Week beginning APRIL 3

Psalms 121:3-4

He will not let your foot be moved. He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Week beginning APRIL 10

Psalms 121:5-6

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Week beginning APRIL 17

Psalms 121:7-8

The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Week beginning APRIL 24

Psalms 125:1-2

Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.