

SERMON - EASTER SUNDAY - 24 APRIL 2011  
St. John's Anglican Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

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Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

I, again, want to wish all of you a most blessed Easter Sunday.

I saw one of those inspirational plaques that seem to be everywhere these days. This one was in a garden center, of all places, and it read, "The best things in life are not things."

The best things in life are not things.

Paul told us this morning in our Epistle, Col. 3:2 (KJV) *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

And Jesus admonishes us, Matthew 6:33 (KJV) *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

We are here again this morning to celebrate the Resurrection, the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the resurrection with the capital R.

A prime example of why the best things in life are not things.

We can't even "Master Card" this event. You know the TV commercial where this costs this and that costs that but the experience is worth it because you have a Master Card to cover it.

My friends, this event is completely free. You couldn't buy it if you tried. There is not enough money in the world, not even in the universe, which could pay for it.

What are we talking about?

I'll give you a clue. I'll even spell it for you; S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N.

Let's say it even more specifically, your salvation.

What has that got to do with fuzzy Easter Bunnies and Easter Eggs?

Not much.

It has more to do with believing that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, was incarnate in other words, lived as one of us, but without sin, was crucified for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day to destroy death.

It has more to do with us accepting Him, Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior, our only Lord and Savior.

And then living as Paul tells us, *Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth*, and as Jesus tells us, *seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness*.

For as Paul also wrote, Col. 3:1 (KJV) *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

We do not follow the mental teachings of Buddha, nor do we follow the prophetic writings of Judaism or Islam, nor do we follow the philosophic wisdom of a Confucius.

We Christians are unique, or at least we should feel unique, in that we worship a living savior.

Christ rose from the dead. Christ is Risen!

1 Cor. 15:20-22 (KJV) *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits*

*of them that slept. [21] For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. [22] For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

And again, to quote Paul, 1 Cor. 15:12-14 (KJV) *Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? [13] But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: [14] And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.*

The Resurrection is central to our belief. The fact that we believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead is the very central point of our faith. The fact that we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, God the Son, and that he died for us on the Cross at Calvary and that he rose from the dead is the cornerstone of what are or should be.

1 Cor. 15:17-19 (KJV) *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. [18] Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. [19] If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

If Christ is not risen. If Christ was not resurrected, then we are as dead in our sins as was Adam. There is no hope for us.

But thanks be to God for His marvelous mercies.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today! He is risen, Indeed!

Amen.