

Title: Why Easter Matters

Text: **Mark 16:6:** *“Do not be alarmed, you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.”*

Target: Easter is the receipt of the purchase on Good Friday.

I. The Empty Grave is Validation: (Providing Acceptance)

A. His Teaching was Truth: *“And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain, and your faith is in vain.”* (1 Cor. 15:14) *“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins...we are of all people most to be pitied.”* (1 Cor. 15:17-19b)

1. **Jesus is the Son of God:** (Isaiah 61:1/John 8:56-58)
2. **Sinless in Nature:** (1 Peter 2:22)
3. **Fulfillment of the Law:** (Matt. 5:17)
4. **Only way to the Father:** (John 14:3)

B. His Claims were Confirmed: *“I AM the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”* (John 11:25-26)

II. The Empty Grave is Vindication: (Providing Acknowledgement)

A. Sin has been Canceled: *“we too might walk in newness of life”* (Romans 6:4)

B. Righteousness has been Imputed: *“who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.”* (Romans 4:25) *The Holy Spirit Imparted

C. Death has been Defeated: *“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?...But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!”* (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)

III. The Empty Grave is Verification: (Providing Accuracy)

A. Good can come from Bad: *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”* (Romans 8:28)

1. **Failure is not Final**
2. **Pain has Purpose**

B. Nothing is impossible: *“For nothing will be impossible with God.”* (Luke 1:37)

C. Your Life has Purpose: *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth.”* (Job 19:25)

D. Heaven is our Future: *According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”* (1 Peter 1:3-4)

Takeaway: The grave is “empty” so you don’t have to live your life that way!