

The Greatness of Easter

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst
April 20, 2025 - Easter Sunday!

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10; John 10:17-18

A wise man once said, *“If Jesus Christ is still in that grave, nothing really matters. But if Jesus Christ came out of that grave, nothing but that really matters.”*

The Greatness of Easter (Matthew 28:1-20; Luke 24:50-53)

Great Kindness (Vs. 1) - *“(1) After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.”*

Great Discovery (Vv. 2-4) - *“(2) There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. (3) His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow...”*

Great Announcement (Vv. 5-7) - *“(5) The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, ... (6) He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay...”*

Great Appearances (Vv. 8-10) - *“(8) So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples... (10) Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”*

Great Commission (Vv. 16-20) - *“(19) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”*

Great Departure (Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11)

Luke 24:51 - *“(51) While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.”*

Easter’s Greatest Commands (Matthew 28:5-7)

1) Do not be afraid – *“(5) The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.”*

➤ The resurrection brings joy, not death and fear (1st Corinthians 15:20-22; 54-57).

2) He is not here – *“(6) He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.”*

➤ **Resurrection** (Gk: *anastasis*): *ana* – **“up;”** *histemi* – **“to cause to stand.”**

3) Come and see – *“(6) ...Come and see the place where he lay.”*

4) Go and tell others – *“(7) Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee...”*

The Greatest fear in the world is not knowing where you are going when you die.

➤ If you take the resurrection out of Easter, there is no hope.

Taking Death away from the future through eternal life in Jesus Christ – is the greatest hope of the resurrection.

Romans 6:4 - *“(4) ...just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may have a new life.”*

John 10:17-18 - *“(17) ...because I lay down My life that I may take it again. (18) No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down Myself. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it again.”*

➤ **POWER** (Gk: *Dunamis*): *“Explosive Power, (Dynamite)”*