

## Easter

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This weekend Christians around the world will gather to commemorate the death of Christ and celebrate His resurrection. The Easter events are the most crucial teachings of Christianity because if Jesus really did not rise from the dead – if the story of the resurrection is just something the disciples made up to save face – then Jesus would be either a pathetic madman or a chronic liar. In either case, he would be a questionable fellow to follow at least.

But if Jesus really did rise from the dead, it is the greatest event of all times and confirms the rest of his teachings.

Many people have a hard time accepting the resurrection of Christ because they feel they do not have absolute proof. They say, *"I cannot be a born again Christian because I am not sure it's true."*

Perhaps the real question to ask oneself is this, *"Am I sure it is NOT true?"* Very few decisions in life are based on being absolutely sure. Business decisions, marriage, travel, even planting a garden all involve a certain risk.

Wise decisions are based upon weighing the probability and rewards of being right against the consequences of a different choice or of doing nothing.

Blaise Pascal, the famous 17<sup>th</sup> century mathematician, was once asked why he trusted in Christ for eternal life. He replied, *"Let's assume that I am wrong and there is no life hereafter – then I have lost nothing. On the other hand, let's assume I am right and there is life hereafter, then I have gained everything."*

In other words, instead of waiting until they are 100 percent sure that Jesus is right, people need to ask themselves, *"Am I all that sure that he was wrong?"*

Jesus either rose from the dead or he did not. The Easter story of Christ's resurrection is either an interesting fictional account or the greatest event ever told. Wise people weigh the likelihood of the evidence and the consequences of their decision and then act even if they are not 100 percent sure. To fail to act is to reject the message completely.

The Bible asks some intriguing questions. None is more thought provoking than this: *"How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?"* (Hebrews 2:3). In other words, if we do not trust in Christ for salvation, what or who are we trusting in?

If you have seen the movie "The Passion of the Christ" I hope that it left more than just a passing impression. Think about it. Jesus suffered and died because he loves us. If he loves us that much, we can trust him. If we trust him, we will want to get to know him.

I hope you will celebrate Easter by attending church this weekend. It could be the start of a meaningful and happy journey of faith.

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