

Easter Sunday
April 1, 2018
“Does Easter Really Matter?”
(Mark 16:1-8)

Even though Jesus had told them he would be crucified, and on the third day be resurrected, it took a while for the event to become _____ to them.

It's clear that, at first, even _____, Christ's most prominent _____, didn't know what to believe.

Many people today have difficulty believing in the _____.

Does it really matter that Christ is risen from the grave?

#1. – It matters if you have ever truly _____ somebody and lost them to _____.

Separation is difficult for those who've lost someone close to them. It leaves a _____ that nothing can fill.

Easter is important to us for what it says to us about our continuing _____ with those we love.

#2. – It also matters if you _____ the gift of life.

Life is _____. Life is simply too wonderful to welcome death as a _____.

God has instilled within each of us the _____ to live, here on this earth for as long as we can.

“We all want to go on forever, don't we? We fear the unknown. Everybody goes to that wall, yet nobody knows what's on the other side. That's why we fear death.”

- Jack Nicholson -

(over)

We don't so much fear death as much as we _____ letting go of life.

We all want to live. Still death is one reality in life that _____ us all.

#3. – It also matters if you want to make any _____ out of living.

If Christ lives, then life has _____. There is _____ even in the most difficult circumstances.

Even at the end of my rope, here is a _____ I can hang on to. If Christ defeated death, if my life goes on forever, if the gospel is true, I can live _____, victoriously!

I can overcome my _____ by his _____ and I can be all he intends for me to be.

We need to be reminded of the power of _____ over death, of _____ over despair, of _____ over hate.

The only place that can be found is by peering into the _____ tomb of the man from Galilee!

Are we simply a _____ who fills a space on this earth and then dies and is forgotten?

What is the meaning of it all, if death has not been _____?

But it has been conquered!

Jesus Christ has risen from the grave!

What amazing good news this Easter Day! Hallelujah! He lives!

Amen.