

Palm & Easter Sunday

"Jesus' Death and Resurrection" Mark 16:1-8; H/C 38, 39, 40, 44, 45
Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on April 9 & 16, 2017

Entering In:

Share one of your most memorable Easters. Why was it so special to you?

1. We call our church a *confessional* church. Do you think we need Confessions and Creeds?
Why or why not?

What are the two elements of the "Rule of Faith" that we would use to evaluate the orthodoxy of other teaching materials besides the Bible?

2. What was Pilate's dilemma with Jesus' case? [John 19:1-16]

What characteristics of Pilate can you identify from his decision?

How would you have decided this case if you were in Pilate's position?

What about Jesus' suffering under Pontius Pilate is significant? [H/C 38. List all possible answers]

3. Why was it necessary that the *Son of God* die?

What is the significance of being hung on a cross? [H/C 39, Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13]

Why did God's wrath fall on Jesus if he was innocent? [H/C 40]

What two attributes of God are revealed on the cross?

4. For whom do you think Christ died? [Limited Atonement]
 - A. Everyone
 - B. Those that God has chosen
 - C. Those who will hear the gospel of Jesus
 - D. Those who will believe in Jesus
 - E. Other

5. Was it necessary for Christ to go to hell? Why or why not?

There are different views about “Jesus’ descending to hell.” What is your view?

- A. Jesus didn’t go to hell because he said he would be in Paradise.
- B. Jesus cannot be in hell because it is contrary to his nature.
- C. Jesus’ descending to hell is not literal but describes the agony of the cross. (Augustine, Calvin)
- D. Jesus went to hell as he was forsaken by the Father.
- E. Jesus went to “Sheol” or “Hades”, which is a place of separation from God between death and the last judgment
- F. Jesus went to Limbo to save more souls. (Roman Catholic)
- G. Jesus went to both Hell and Purgatory, where he proclaimed victory and gave hope respectively. (Aquinas)
- H. Other

Because there is no direct Scriptural support, many churches omit the phrase “He descended to hell” from the Creed. Based on your answer above, do you agree or disagree with this practice?

6. Why do you think the disciples couldn’t understand Jesus’ death and resurrection even though Jesus told them these things would happen several times before he was crucified?

Why is still difficult for some people to believe Jesus’ historical resurrection?

How would you explain Jesus’ resurrection to non-believers?

7. How does Christ’s resurrection benefit us? [H/C 45]

Explain in your words how we share in Jesus’ righteousness.

What is the result of justification? [Romans 5:1]

8. What does it mean to you to live a “new life” in this world? In other words, how is your *new life* different from your *old life* or the life of non-believers?

How does Christ’s resurrection guarantee our own resurrection? [1 Corinthians 15:20; 2 Corinthians 4:14]

Living It Out:

*If Jesus asked you, “I gave my life for thee, what has thou given for me?” what would be your answer?
Pray that you can live as a resurrected one in this world.*