

He has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia! No, I am not trapped in time thinking it is still Easter morning, rather I am living in the now; remembering that the truth of Easter is a current reality. You see, Easter is not a one and done type of season. It's not something you recognize once a year and then move on. Easter is not just something to use as an excuse to take an extended family vacation to visit grandpa and grandma. That is not Easter. So what is Easter, really? Easter is a loud BOOM to wake people up to the reality of Jesus Christ and what he did for us.

Throughout scripture, we see the holy drama of creation, restoration and New Creation play out. We see the story of God redeeming His people. Starting with creation in Genesis, we see a powerful and loving God creating all we can see and not see. We hear God say, "*It is good*". God is pleased but it doesn't take long for things to turn south. Adam and Eve were created to fellowship with God but they soon turned away from God in an effort to be their own god. They listened to the serpent and bought what he was selling, "*You shall certainly not die if you eat that forbidden fruit.*" True, they did not die on the spot, but through sin; disobedience, they brought death into God's perfect creation. They did not die then, but they would later. Following God's curses on Adam and Eve and the serpent ("He shall crush your head but you shall bruise his heel") God went to work to redeem his creation. That is the story, but why does this matter to us now? Great question, I'm glad you asked.

Fact: You are a sinner.

Fact: You will die someday.

Fact: Your body will decay and return to dust.

Fact: You are not God.

Those are the facts, but Easter means that through faith in the crucified and resurrected Jesus, you shall live. Easter means that through faith in Jesus your sins are forgiven. Easter means that you can have the hope of eternal life. This means that Easter is not a one and done type of holiday. Easter is a current and ongoing reality. Jesus is still risen. Jesus is still alive. Through Jesus there is still hope, and none of this will ever, ever change. Therefore, we can shout with confidence and joy: He IS risen! He IS risen indeed! Alleluia!

So, don't leave Easter behind and wait for next year. Celebrate now and praise God for the Easter story each and every day. Remember what Jesus did for you at Easter and live with the joy of the resurrection. Happy Easter and praise be to God. Amen.