

## Victory of Easter

### *I Corinthians 15.20-26; 50-57*

Easter: What does it mean? *Answer A & B*

1. Modern Translation of Old English Term: Eostre-Monath, thus meaning Month of New Life?
2. Modern translation of Old Slavic word: Ostra- for Great Day?
3. Pagan Festival, held after Spring Equinox, commemorating goddess of Fertility, Astora?

*Explain the history of Easter Myth – 8<sup>th</sup> Century English Monk, padding the work of the English Church & 16 Century addition of bunny, toys and eggs*

This morning: a different approach to the Resurrection. Instead of the account, drawing traditional meaning, we are looking at the ramifications of this Great Day of New Life. Do we consider what the Resurrection means?

Jesus' Resurrection:

1. Hope for Tomorrow – Death is not the end all
  - a. World sees: "It's this life, then the fireworks and then we die."
  - b. World says: "He lives on in our hearts and memories."
  - c. God says: "When the trumpet sounds, first the dead rise, and then those who are still alive will be changed."
  - d. This knowledge that there is more to come, an eternity, also gives:
2. Comfort for Today – The Devil was defeated before Death!
  - a. Paul states in verse 26 that Death is the last enemy to be destroyed or defeated as is also a good translation.
  - b. Devil lost the fight on Friday, a couple of eons ago. Sure he attacks, but Christ gives us the strength to withstand him, according to James and Peter's letters.
  - c. No matter the struggle we are going through, knowing that Satan has no dominion over us, brings us to the final lesson of our passage:
3. Freedom For Living – Sin no longer enslaves us.
  - a. Jesus is the Passover Lamb, who, as John, the baptizer, stated, takes away the sins of the world.
  - b. As such, this news should excite us, motivate us.
  - c. People around us are entangled by their bad choices, the sins they committed, and they are not sure of who to turn to. We know who they need to cling. Now is the time for them to have New Life offered by God.

Opportunity: This is something we proclaim every week during the Lord's Supper, when we study the Bible. But now, the world is looking at Easter, open to hearing the truth behind the Great Day that brings new life. We get only a couple of friendly chances. Let's make the most.

Perhaps you need to accept this proclamation. Come. Renew? Come.

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>50</sup> I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. <sup>54</sup> When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” <sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”<sup>d</sup> <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>*The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (1 Co 15:20-26). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

<sup>d</sup>Hosea 13:14

<sup>2</sup>*The Holy Bible : New International Version*. 1996, c1984 (electronic ed.) (1 Co 15:50-57). Grand Rapids: Zondervan.