

## THE EASTER NOTE

What the preacher says on Easter is the index to his ministry. It is then that his message has to do with the central fact of Christianity. A negative or uncertain note on such an occasion is not only unfortunate; it is tragical.

Easter has a positive note, which should resound from every pulpit and from every heart. It reveals a living personality—triumphant in life and triumphant in death. So our religion proceeds not from abstract theory or the gropings and guesswork of the human mind, but from a revelation which came in no uncertain way through a life that was unique, which reflected the truth, the character and the glory of God.

Easter is the badge of a risen, living Savior. It is His voice to mankind now, saying, "Behold I am alive forevermore." That makes our religion intensely real, because it makes our Savior real. It is a religion of the empty tomb and the burning heart. Our Savior still walks and talks with men.

Thus, Easter is the touchstone of our faith. By men's attitude toward that great event may be gauged their attitude toward things spiritual. He who catches the note of triumph from the Easter message lives a triumphant life, and is sustained by a triumphant faith in the trials and sorrows of this world.

Easter bears witness to a supernatural event. On that first Easter morning the forces of two worlds came together, and those of the supernatural prevailed. It were a pity indeed if this were not true. There would be no comfort or cheer or inspiration in a faith that did not lay hold of something more than nature supplies.

Therefore, Easter proclaims a Savior who has power over death, who has taken away the sting of death and has robbed the grave of its victory. What beauty and power it gives to the familiar words, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." Perhaps some of us have been inclined to associate those words with death, as we recall the many sad occasions upon which we have heard them spoken. But Easter reminds us that they are to be associated with life—triumphant, eternal life.—The Religious Telescope.

## WHAT EASTER MEANS

Text: "If there be no resurrection of the dead then is Christ not risen; and if Christ be not risen then is our preaching in vain and your faith is also in vain." I Cor. 15:13-14.

The mighty utterance given by that mighty theologian Paul, gives an insight into the thought of what Easter means. To many Easter is but another holiday. A time for a new hat, a new dress. A time when some go to church the only time in the year. But to the person who cares to study the word of God, to that person who has been lifted by the resurrection power of a risen Christ, yes, to them there is a true meaning to Easter.

On the resurrection of Christ hinges our hope in the saving merits of the Blood. On the resurrection hinges everything in the Christian faith. To get the true meaning let us take a negative view on what if Christ be not risen. Then we can better realize what Easter means.

1. If Christ be not risen we lose our faith in the Word of God.

The resurrection is mentioned over 100 times but if there is not a resurrected Christ then our faith in the Word is shattered.

Then again if Christ be not risen we lose faith in Christ.

In Romans 1:4 we read He was declared to be

the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead. If Christ is still dead then in that garden tomb lies buried our faith in Christ. For His Sonship hinged upon His resurrection.

Again if Christ be not risen we lose faith in the Atonement.

On the cross Christ cried "It is finished." The resurrection was God's amen. It was proof that the sacrifice was accepted, that the Blood could save. For the Scripture declares "He was delivered for our offenses." "Then He was raised for our justification."

Paul said, "If Christ be not risen we are yet in our sins."

Then we lose faith in Christ's promise to return if He be not risen. Think of that blessed hope. For which martyrs died for and has held saints of God steady through trial. But if Christ is not risen, if He is still in the tomb He can not appear without sin unto salvation. We would be as the disciples of the Emmaus Road who said he had hoped it was He who would redeem Israel.

Again if Christ be not risen we lose hope in immortality or life after death.

The promise of our immortality is because I live ye shall live also.

Paul said if in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men most miserable and if Christ be not raised then they also which are fallen asleep in Him are perished.

Do you catch the significance of what Easter means? If Christ is not risen when we lay the minister say dust to dust and ashes to ashes it would be the end of it all. How black it would be. But thank God we serve a Risen Christ. Therefore we have faith in His Word.

We have faith in His Blood. And we have faith in His promise to return. Then we know because He lived we shall live also.

We have tried to picture this way to you what Easter means, what the open tomb means. Praise God He liveth and is set down at the right hand of God to make intercession for us.

May Easter mean more than it ever has. May its truth be nearer, dearer, and richer. For our hope is dependent on this glorious truth.

He arose, He arose,  
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

The resurrection opens for the saints heaven's gates and takes us into the presence of the King. That, my friend, is what Easter means.—Victor Glenn.

## EASTER MORNING

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;  
Death is strong, but life is stronger;  
Stronger than the dark, the light;  
Stronger than the wrong, the right;  
Faith and hope triumphant say,  
"Christ will rise on Easter Day."

While the patient earth lies waking  
Till the morning shall be breaking,  
Shuddering 'neath the burden dread  
Of her Master, cold and dead,  
Hark! she hears the angels say,  
"Christ will rise on Easter Day."

And when sunrise smites the mountains,  
Pouring light from heavenly fountains,  
Then the earth blooms out to greet  
Once again the blessed feet;  
And her countless voices say  
"Christ will rise on Easter Day."

—Phillips Brooks, in Christian Guardian

It is easy to preach, but very hard to preach well.—Emmons.

## CHURCH ATTENDANCE

One statistician states that "only six per cent of our nation attend services on Sunday morning, and two per cent on Sunday evening. About forty per cent of the American people are on church registers, but only twenty-nine per cent ever attend church. Among 12,000,000 in America, 7,000,000 are unchurched. There are 250,000 unchurched people of all races in Pittsburgh; 400,000 in Cleveland; 300,000 in St. Louis; 250,000 in Seattle; 425,000 in San Francisco; 1,000,000 in Los Angeles; and 4,000,000 in New York City. The unchurched in New York City alone equal the combined population of Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico."—Herald of Holiness.

## NEGROES

There are 12,000,000 Negroes in the United States, and the greatest improvements in the race have come since the beginning of the World War. There are now over 120 Negro institutions of higher learning, with 35,000 students of college grade, 2,457 of collegiate profession grade, and twice the entire number studying college subjects. The first Negro collegiate graduate in America was from Bowdoin College in 1826. The number of Negroes no wholding academic and professional degrees is 32,478. About 63.8 per cent are men and 36.2 per cent are women. The largest numerical group comes from parents neither of whom could read. The bulk of these graduates enter the professional field. Before 1880 most of these entered the ministry; since that, other learned professions. Nearly two hundred have incomes of \$5,000 or more; the medium high school salary of teachers is \$1,300. The call for Negro college graduates is more imperative than ever. There is one white physician to every 728 white people, but only one Negro physician to every 3,125 Negroes. There is one white teacher for every 110 white children, one Negro teacher for every 218 of the Negro group.—United Presbyterian.

## I GAVE THEM MYSELF

Said a mother to me one day: 'When my children were young I thought the very best thing I could do for them was to give them, myself, so I spared no pains to talk with them, to read to them, to teach them, to pray with them, to be a loving companion and friend to my children. I had to neglect my house often. I had no time to indulge myself in many things which I would have liked to do. I was so busy adorning their minds and cultivating their hearts with affections that I could not adorn their bodies in fine clothes, though I kept them neat and comfortable at all times.

I have my reward now. My sons are ministers of the Gospel; my grown up daughter is a Christian woman. I have plenty of time now to sit down and rest and keep my house in order. Plenty of time to go about my Master's business, wherever He has need of me. I have a thousand beautiful memories of their childhood to comfort me now that they have gone out into the world. I have the sweet consciousness of having done all I could to make them ready for whatever work God called them to do.'—Selected.

"We shall never acquire any great capacity for joy, the blessed peace of God will never possess our mind and heart as long as we shrink from self-denial."