

QTC568. Death Devoured, Defeated, De-fanged. An Easter Sunday Reflection. 24 April 2025

"Death: Devoured, Defeated, De-fanged. An Easter Sunday Reflection" | Malcolm Cox | Quiet Time Coaching Episode 568

Introduction

Hello and happy Easter! Easter Sunday is the biggest, loudest, most joyful day in the Christian calendar—and for good reason. Easter Sunday changes *everything*. Why? Because the stakes are eternal.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:17, *"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."* But, thank God, Paul doesn't stop there. He continues, *"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died."* That's our guarantee. Our hope beyond the grave isn't wishful thinking—it's rooted in a historical, bodily resurrection.

You can almost hear Paul's joy bursting off the page:

"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:54–55)

In other words: Death has been devoured. Defeated. De-fanged.

Now, let's talk evidence. The resurrection of Jesus is supported by credible historical accounts, eyewitness testimony, and—perhaps most powerfully—the transformation of Jesus' followers. William Lane Craig sums it up well:

"It explains why the tomb was found empty, why the disciples saw appearances of Jesus alive, and why the Christian faith came into being."

It even explains why Christians began gathering on Sundays instead of the Jewish Sabbath. That's significant. Sunday was a workday in Roman society. Why would early believers—many of them slaves—choose to worship *then*, early in the morning or late at night, unless something monumental had happened? Something like... the resurrection?

Justin Martyr, writing around 150 AD, described Christians meeting on "the first day of the week" because that was the day Jesus rose from the dead. A change that big doesn't happen unless the event behind it is even bigger.

And what does all this mean for us?

Hope.

Not just “wishful thinking” hope—but real, grounded, resurrection-powered hope. Without the resurrection, all the pain and struggle of life would be meaningless. But with it, everything changes.

John Mark Hicks puts it beautifully:

“Jesus, as incarnate God, dispels the darkness through suffering and death, which inaugurates new creation through resurrection.”

The night will not last forever. As Revelation 21 says, *there will be no more night.*

We are a new creation living in the old one—groaning, yes—but groaning with purpose. With hope.

Tish Harrison Warren writes,

“Jesus’ resurrection is the sole evidence that love triumphs over death, that beauty outlives horror, that the meek will inherit the earth, that those who mourn will be comforted.”

So rejoice. Sing. Celebrate. Because he is risen!

He is risen indeed!

God bless, and happy Easter.

—Malcolm

P.S. If you're hungry for more on this topic, check below for some great articles and books.

- “The Resurrection and Dying and Rising Gods” article (https://open.substack.com/pub/worldviewbulletin/p/the-resurrection-and-dying-and-rising?r=59c4z1&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&showWelcomeOnShare=false) by Timothy Paul Jones taken from the book “Did the resurrection really happen?” (<https://amzn.eu/d/1u9r0co>).
- “Problems for Hallucination Theories of the Resurrection” article (https://open.substack.com/pub/worldviewbulletin/p/problems-for-hallucination-theories?utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web) by Gary Habermas excerpted from “On the Resurrection, Volume 2: Refutations” (<https://amzn.eu/d/cg01dfu>).

Share your thoughts, insights, or questions with me and the other listeners. And if you haven't yet, grab a free copy of my eBook on spiritual disciplines, *“How God Grows His People,”* at www.malcolmcox.org by signing up for my newsletter.

Take care, and God bless, Malcolm

Music used in this recording: “Carpe Diem” Kevin MacLeod (incompetech.com). Licensed under Creative Commons: By Attribution 4.0 License. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Images from Stencil: <https://getstencil.com/>