

April 2018

From the Pastor



It is No Joke!

I find it interesting that this year Easter is on April Fool's Day. It fits for the story of Easter. Let me explain.

If I told you on April 1st that someone you knew was dead and came back to life a few days later, you would think that I was playing an April Fool's joke on you. There is no way someone would be coming back to life.

That is how foolish the story of the resurrection is to the world. We tell people that someone who died came back to life three days later. This has never happened in history; yet we have the faith to think that anyone would believe this.

It is true! It is not just an untrue story to tell gullible people to believe in.

The truth is that if the resurrection is not true then we are the fools. Look at what the apostle Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:12-19 ¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (ESV)

The good news is that the resurrection is a reality. It is

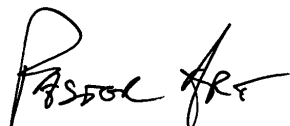


no joke! Jesus did rise from the dead; therefore, we have hope. Look at what else the apostle Paul wrote:

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. (ESV)

The resurrection of Jesus is not a joke! It is a reality, and in that reality is our hope in Jesus who has proved through His resurrection that He is God. We have the truth that Jesus is God, even on April Fool's day!

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pastor Fred". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and "F".