

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE

The Gospel Truth, Easter 2025

SERIES

DATE

4/20/2025

KEY SCRIPTURE

Matthew 27; John 19; Luke 24

SYNOPSIS

God wants a relationship with you. The Gospel Truth in the story of Easter is one of redemption, resurrection and reconciliation.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ Title Slide: Easter, 2025, The Gospel Truth

The Gospel is a lot more elaborate than simply saying “Jesus saves.” While that is true, the whole story is larger than only that. If we start from the very beginning we understand that...

☞ Slide 1: This world is not as it should be.

- √ Mankind was designed to have a close relationship with God and even partner with him in overseeing the Kingdom.
- √ Sin and rebellion disrupted that original plan.
- √ God continually reaches out to mankind for restoration, but people continue to rebel and persist in sin.
- √ Since no man could fully accomplish God’s plans, he, himself, came in the flesh to fix everything once and for all.
- √ God loves people, so he made a way for restoration.

☞ Slide 2: John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

From the beginning sin has separated all mankind from God. But he loves people so much, he made a way to reconnect. He died for our sins.

--Billy Graham... God proved his love on the cross. When Christ hung and bled and died it was God saying to the world – I love you.

☞ It was my sin and your sin that led him to the cross.

The Hammer (Music video starts here): Phil solo with video background

Isaiah 53:6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:5 (read after listing of sins)

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

We nailed him there! It was my sin, your sin, that killed him. And it wasn’t just that he died, but he suffered. It was a gruesome death.

Matthew 27 and John 19 describe his torture and crucifixion:

He was flogged & a crown of thorns was pressed onto his head. He was beaten over & over again.

☞ Slide 3: SCOURGE (flogging)

A Roman implement for severe bodily punishment. It consisted of a handle, to which several cords were attached, which were weighted with jagged pieces of bone or metal, to make the blow more painful and effective. The victim was tied to a post and the blows were applied to the back and loins,



sometimes even, to the face and the gut. Those shards attached to the cords became embedded into the skin, so, the pulling back after the blow was actually more devastating than the blow itself. So hideous was the punishment that the victim usually fainted and often died under it.

Jesus survived all of that, but then they led him away and crucified him.

☞ Slide 4: The CROSS

The suffering of death by crucifixion was intense, especially in hot climates. Severe local inflammation, coupled with bleeding of the jagged wounds, produced traumatic fever, which was aggravated by the exposure to the heat of the sun, the strain of the body and insufferable thirst. The swelling around the rough nails and the torn, lacerated tendons and nerves caused excruciating agony. The arteries of the head and stomach were surcharged with blood and a terrific throbbing headache ensued. The mind was confused and filled with anxiety and dread. It was like a thousand deaths. Tetanus often set in and the rigors of the convulsions would tear at the wounds and add to the burden of pain, till at last the bodily forces were exhausted and the victim sank to unconsciousness and death.

On top of all that, there was the anguish in his mind as Jesus felt the weight of sin upon him and the pain of separation from God. **Matthew 27:46** ...Jesus cried out in a loud voice... "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Then, finally, he died. The way it's worded in John 19 indicates that he willingly gave up his spirit to die. All of this was what we deserved because of sin. But Jesus took our place and died instead.

☞ He died in our place...

The End of the Beginning (Music video starts here): Dave Freeman solo with video

He died in our place, but that is not the whole story.

Luke 24:1-6

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here;

☞ Slide 5: he has risen!

A three-year-old, Nicole, was as anxious for Easter to come as she had been for Christmas to come. Nicole had picked out a new dress and Mom had given her a new white bonnet. As we stopped at a store to buy her a new pair of shoes to go with her outfit, she once again said, "I can't wait for Easter, Daddy!" I asked her, "Do you know what Easter means, honey?" She replied, "Yes." "Well, what does Easter mean?" In her own sweet three-year-old way, with arms raised, a smile on her face, and at the top of her voice she said, "Surprise!" What better word could sum up the meaning of Easter! Surprise, death! Surprise, sin! Surprise, sorrowful disciples! Surprise, modern man! He's alive!

He defeated death and the grave! This offers hope to all mankind!



A little boy and his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Out of nowhere a bumblebee flew in the car window. Since the little boy was deathly allergic to bee stings, he became petrified. But the father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. But as soon as he let it go, the young son became frantic once again as it buzzed by. Once again the father reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to his hand. There still stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "Do you see this?" he said. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you." And this is the message of Easter. We do not need to be afraid of death anymore. Christ faced death for us. And by His victory, we are saved from sin. Christ has taken the stinger for us. He has risen! Fear is gone. New life is ours.

We've all sinned; each one of us deserves to die on our own cross. That's the penalty for sinning against God. But Christ took our place. Since he was the perfect sacrifice, his death has the power to take the place of everyone. We simply need to believe it and receive it! **Romans 3:23, 6:23**

Romans 10:9

if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ephesians 2:8-9

it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

It's only by God's grace that we can be rescued. No one can work their way into heaven. Each one must believe and receive Jesus Christ. In Philippians Paul lists off a bunch of religious qualities that he could claim, but ultimately, he views those things as rubbish. What really matters is having a right relationship with Jesus Christ, because he is living today!

☞ **Slide 6: Being a Christian is not about following a list of rules and regulations. Rather, it's about following a person – the Lord, Jesus Christ.** He's done so much for you, he deserves your allegiance in return. And, that's **the Gospel Truth!**

Does anyone want to follow Christ today? **He died for you! He has power over death!** And, that means that we can also live forever in heaven.

☞ **Slide 7: Do you want to live forever in heaven? You can, if you will follow Jesus!**

☞ **Slide 8:** The Gospel truth is summed up as we see Easter is a story of **redemption, resurrection** and **reconciliation**. And, it's all because God wants a **relationship** with you! God is **reaching out** to you today. Will you **receive his gift**? Jesus gave his life for you. Will you give your life to him? ...*"God, forgive me; save me; help me to live for you."*

Song: Worth it all