

The story of Easter



The story begins...

God (Father, Son, Spirit)



The story begins...

God (Father, Son, Spirit)

– Made man (and woman)



The story begins...

God (Father, Son, Spirit)

- Made man (and woman)
- In His own image

“Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ... So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” *Genesis 1: 26-27*



The story begins...

Made in God's image, mankind was made...

– Able to choose to love



The story begins...

Made in God's image, mankind was made...

- Able to choose to love
- Able to choose right from wrong



The story begins...

Made in God's image, mankind was made...

- Able to choose to love
- Able to choose right from wrong
- Desire and need to know Him



The story begins...

Sin changed the story



The story begins...

Sin changed the story

- Struggle over what to love more
God or self



The story begins...

Sin changed the story

- Struggle over what to love more
God or self
- Struggle over right from wrong
Consequences of sinful world



The story begins...

Sin changed the story

- Struggle over what to love more
God or self

- Struggle over right from wrong
Consequences of sinful world

- Desire to know Him vs. fear of knowing Him
Conflict of sin



The story continues...

Noah

Abraham

Moses

David



The story continues...

Jesus

Emmanuel - God with us

Christ - Messiah

Reconciliation of God to man



The story continues...

Jesus

– Lived life without the blemish of sin



The story continues...

Jesus

- Lived life without the blemish of sin
- Paid the penalty for all sin through His death on the Cross



This is the hope of Easter...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God



This is the hope of Easter...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

– The debt of sin is paid



This is the hope of Easter...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

- The debt of sin is paid
- The relationship can be restored



This is the hope of Easter...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

- The debt of sin is paid
- The relationship can be restored
- Life can have the meaning it was intended to have



The story continues...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God



The story continues...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

– Able to choose to love Him



The story continues...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

- Able to choose to love Him
- Able to choose right from wrong



The story continues...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

- Able to choose to love Him
- Able to choose right from wrong
- Fulfills the desire to know God



This is the hope of Easter...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God



This is the hope of Easter...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

- There is no other way for this to happen except through accepting sacrifice of Christ on the Cross



This is the hope of Easter...

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- There is no other way for this to happen except through accepting sacrifice of Christ on the Cross
- Each individual's eternal future rests in what they do with that sacrifice



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- Each individual's eternal future rests in what they do with that sacrifice
 - Accepting it leads to a reconciled relationship



This is the hope of Easter...

Jesus reconciles mankind to God

- There is no other way for this to happen except through accepting sacrifice of Christ on the Cross
- Each individual's eternal future rests in what they do with that sacrifice
 - Accepting it leads to a reconciled relationship
 - Rejecting it means relationship is not restored
 - Judgment of sin means eternal separation from God



This is the hope of Easter...

God intended us to live in relationship with Him

– None of us deserve it

- No one is too “lost” to accept it if they will



This is the hope of Easter...

God intended us to live in relationship with Him

– None of us deserve it

- No one is too “lost” to accept it if they will

– None of us can earn it

- No one is without the sin that separates us



This is the hope of Easter...

God intended us to live in relationship with Him

– None of us deserve it

- No one is too “lost” to accept it if they will

– None of us can earn it

- No one is without the sin that separates us

“We love Him because He first loved us.” *1 John 4:19*



This is the truth of Easter...

God defines what loving Him looks like



This is the truth of Easter...

God defines what loving Him looks like

“If you love Me, keep My commandments ... He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest {reveal} Myself to him.” *John 14: 15,21*



This is the truth of Easter...

Jesus defines who He is

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” *John 14:6*



This is the truth of Easter...

Jesus defines who He is

“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” *John 14:6*

“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.” *John 14:23*



This is the truth of Easter...

Spirit continues to reconcile us to God



This is the truth of Easter...

Spirit continues to reconcile us to God

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

John 14: 16-18



This is the rest of the story...

As Jesus' body lay in the grave, those who followed Him feared hope was lost

But as they discovered Hope, they cried...



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“Rabboni... Master”... teacher *Mary Magdalene*



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As Jesus' body lay in the grave, those who followed Him feared hope was lost

But as they discovered Hope, they cried...

“Rabboni... Master”... teacher *Mary Magdalene*

“hearts burned as He opened the Scriptures” *Disciples*



This is the rest of the story...

We find Hope in knowing Him



This is the rest of the story...

We find Hope in knowing Him
– Forgiveness of sins



This is the rest of the story...

We find Hope in knowing Him

- Forgiveness of sins
- Relationship made right by accepting Jesus' sacrifice



This is the rest of the story...

We find Hope in knowing Him

- Forgiveness of sins
- Relationship made right by accepting Jesus' sacrifice
- Nothing severs this relationship except own choice once it is established



This is the rest of the story...

We find Hope in knowing Him

- Forgiveness of sins
- Relationship made right by accepting Jesus' sacrifice
- Nothing severs this relationship except own choice once it is established
- New desire to follow Him and His commandments



This is the best of the story...

God defines what loving Him looks like...



This is the best of the story...

God defines what loving Him looks like...

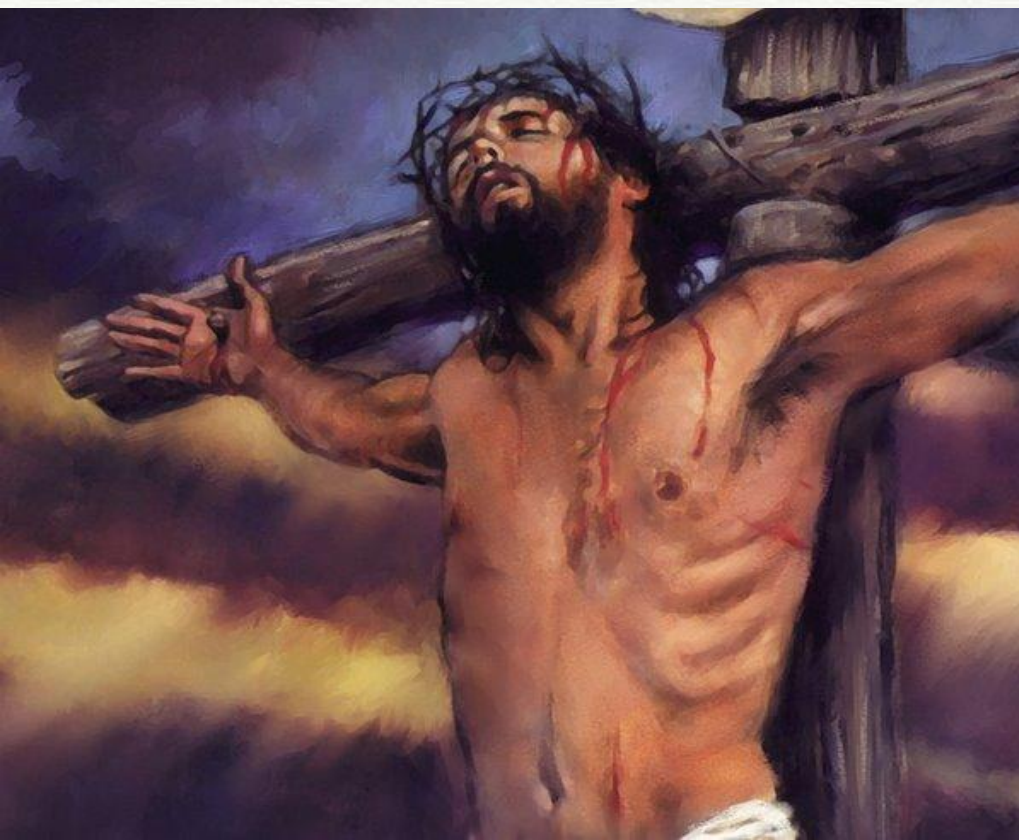
He also demonstrates what Him loving us looks like



This is the best of the story...

God defines what loving Him looks like...

He also demonstrates what Him loving us looks like



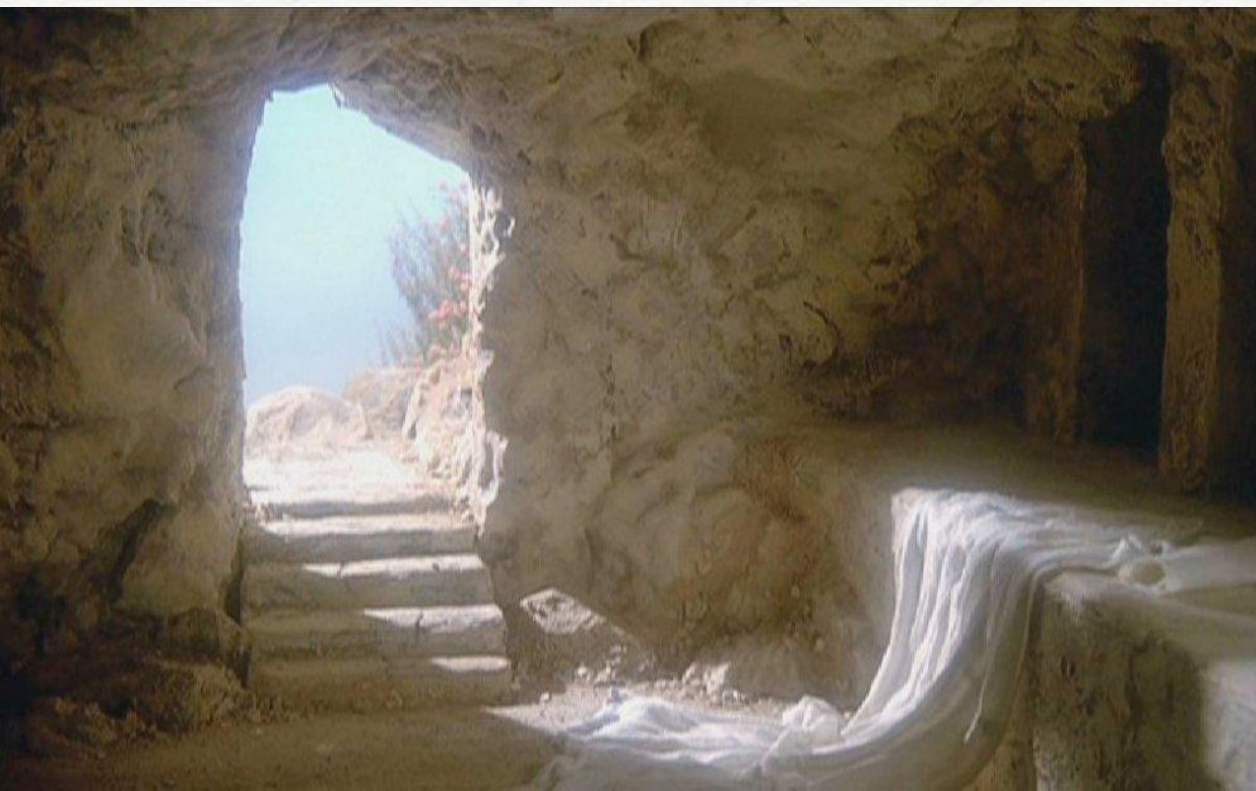
This is the best of the story...

The same Spirit that breathed life back into the humanity of Jesus breathes spiritual life into man



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The same Spirit that breathed life back into the humanity of Jesus breathes spiritual life into man



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The same Spirit that breathed life back into the humanity of Jesus breathes spiritual life into man



This is the best of the story...

The same Spirit that breathed life back into the
humanity of Jesus breathes spiritual life into man

– Victory over death



This is the best of the story...

The same Spirit that breathed life back into the humanity of Jesus breathes spiritual life into man

- Victory over death
- Victory over sin



This is the best of the story...

The same Spirit that breathed life back into the humanity of Jesus breathes spiritual life into man

- Victory over death
- Victory over sin
- Victory to live in the image of God as revealed through the life of Jesus Christ

