

Could the good news about Easter be even better than the great good news about Good Friday? Putting together all of the events of Holy Week, you can see why.

The fundamental problem of humanity is our need to be reconciled with the Creator. Only God can set things right, so He sent His son, Jesus Christ.

On Palm Sunday, the long-promised Servant-Savior King enters Jerusalem. But instead of taking the throne of Israel, Jesus purifies the temple – preparing for His upcoming sacrifice.

On Maundy Thursday, He declares His fulfillment of the New Covenant, which promised new hearts and minds attuned to the Lord. And in submission to God's eternal plan of redemption, Jesus is arrested and condemned to crucifixion.

On Good Friday, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world makes full and final payment for sin with His own body and blood. His words "it is finished" extends to past, present and future, as His one sacrifice for all time reconciles repentant sinners to the merciful God who saves them.

Remember the two criminals who were crucified with Jesus? One mocked Him and remained unforgiven. But the other one believed in Jesus and received forgiveness and eternal life. What about you? If you receive Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you can say with the Apostle Paul, "I am crucified with Christ" so that His sacrifice makes you right with God. But there's more!

Easter is all about the good news of Jesus rising from the dead. On Friday, He was crucified, dead, and buried. But on Sunday, when His followers came to His tomb – He was not there. JESUS IS RISEN.

The resurrection of Jesus authenticates His claims to be God, assures His followers of our own triumph over death, climaxes His victory over sin, and gives the power of the Holy Spirit to all who believe.

And as you personalize His resurrection from the dead, by faith you too can also say with the Apostle Paul, "I am risen with Christ." The resurrection power of the Holy Spirit lives within believers. You are empowered to say "yes" to God and His plan for your life, and "no" to the world, the flesh, and the devil.

That's GOOD NEWS about Easter – He makes you spiritually alive! As you believe in the risen Christ, you receive what only He can do FOR you, He lives out His life THROUGH you – and overflows His amazing grace to the people around you. Trust in Jesus and that Good News is yours!

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