

The Easter Turnaround

Dr. John Carmichael

[1Co 15:1-5 NASB95] 1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

- What is Easter? President Biden thinks it is Transgender Visibility Day. The world thinks it is about bunnies and candy.
- Easter is when Jesus died and rose again for our sins to be forgiven and made a way for us to be free from sin and Satan to live the life God wants for us.
- Easter means Jesus is alive.
- It means that our best days are ahead! For many, that will require a turnaround.
- The Gospel of Jesus will give you a turnaround.
- I Corinthians 15:1-4
 - V. 1-2 What did the Gospel do? It was the subject of preaching and saving their souls
 - V. 3-4 What is the Gospel that saved them? Jesus died, buried, raised.

How do we tap into the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ today for a turnaround?

There are four important aspects from 1 Cor. 15:3-4 that will help us see turnarounds in our lives today.

I. Your Easter turnaround is based on an encounter with Jesus.

- A. Paul delivered what he received.
- B. Galatians 1:11-12 - [Gal 1:11-12 NASB] 11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but [I received it] through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
- C. He had an encounter with Jesus Christ.
- D. Our turnaround is centered on the relationship with Jesus.

II. Your Easter turnaround is promised in God's Word.

- A. Paul knew the Word of God. Mentioned it twice in this passage.
- B. Death of Jesus
 - a. Psalm 22
 - b. Isaiah 53:3-5
- C. Resurrection of Jesus
 - a. Hosea 6:2 - [Hos 6:2 NASB] 2 "He will revive us after two days; He will raise us up on the third day, That we may live before Him.
 - b. Jonah 1:17 - [Jon 1:17 NASB] 17 And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.
- D. The death & resurrection of Jesus was no surprise to those who understood the scriptures.
- E. We get afraid and confused if we do not know and believe the Word of God.
- F. God promises our victory in His Word.

III. Your Easter turnaround requires endurance.

- A. Notice the "...if you hold fast the word which I preached to you..."

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- B. Being a Christian is not an easy road. There are persecutions that come with a relationship with Christ.
- C. [2Ti 2:3 NASB95] 3 Suffer hardship with [me,] as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.
- D. We need to make a decision that no matter what, we are going to follow Christ.

IV. Your Easter turnaround is assured.

- A. A better translation: He was raised... perfect tense. Unlike the other words (died, buried), past tense refers to one-time occurrences in the past. This is the perfect tense. It is translated in English as past, but it means something that happened but keeps on having an effect.
 - B. Because it happened... other things are happening.
 - C. Ephesians 2:5-6 - [Eph 2:5-6 NASB] 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus,
 - D. Our best days are ahead.
 - E. Proverbs 4:18 - [Pro 4:18 NASB] 18 But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, That shines brighter and brighter until the full day.
 - F. Get ready for victory.
- Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, we can receive the turnaround God has promised as we surrender to Jesus, believe His Word, refuse to quit, and be assured God is bringing a turnaround.
 - Communion