

He Lives!
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Easter Sunday proclaims Jesus Christ was alive on the third day after His crucifixion. In fact, it affirms much more.

He was alive on the fourth and fifth days also. He was alive during the forty days before the ascension, days when He spoke *"...of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God..."* and instructed His disciples (Acts 1:3).

He was alive at Pentecost when He poured the Holy Spirit on the church, as Peter proclaims: *"...ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain..."* (Acts 2:23). But *"...God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses...being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear."* (Acts 2:32-33).

Jesus was alive that notable yesterday when He appeared to Paul on the Damascus Road. *"...Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? . . . I am Jesus whom thou persecutest..."* (Acts 9:4, 5).

He is still alive today, confronting sinners and saving the penitent, scattering the proud and sanctifying the godly, sifting the self-indulgent and sharing the blessings of eternity with all who love Him.

He is alive forever. This is the insistent witness of the Christian church.

The glorious fact is that Christ stepped into history from the outside—from the eternal world. *"...the Word was made flesh..."* (John 1:14),

John writes of that self-same Word who was... *"In the beginning...was with God..."* (John 1:1) and veritably was God. When He ascended after His resurrection, He did so not as an alien, or a wandering pilgrim, but as a resident temporarily at large returning to His permanent transcendent home.

He is God come in the flesh to save us in a staggering cosmic rescue far more awesome and destiny-laden than even man's spectacular flight to the moon or his probing of Jupiter and its satellites.

Our scientific verdict on the heavenly bodies will inevitably change, but of the Lord in His risen body we can forever proclaim, *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."* (Hebrews 13:8).

Jesus, as risen, exhibits the kind of manhood God approves in His eternal presence; and just as He welcomes the sinless Nazarene, so God welcomes those sheltered by the Saviour's righteousness. To be "in Christ" was the great joy of the first Christians in a world suffocating in its sins.

"...Christ in you, the hope of glory..." (Colossians 1:27) or rather, the hope of glory to come, was and is continually the treasured privilege of all who receive Him. *"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."* (Colossians 3:4).

On Easter morning, Christianity affirms good

news about the crucified and risen One, namely “...that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (John 20:31). “...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6).

He who confronted Paul on the Damascus road addresses you, also. “I am not persecuting you, Lord,” you may be saying. Perhaps snubbing Him, or ignoring Him, better fits the fact.

“You do not know Me?” He asks. “I am Jesus, God-Man, Bread come down from Heaven, Light of the world. I am the way. Come, and I will give you rest. I am the Way out of the wilderness and wasteland of sin and death.”

“I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

Carl F. H. Henry

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

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