



April 4, 2010 – Will Mackey

## Why Is Easter So Important?

*"And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless..." (1Cor. 15:17 NLT)*

If Jesus did not rise from the dead, our faith is useless because:

1. He would have been a liar and not trustworthy.
2. He would not have been the Son of God.
3. We cannot know him or follow him.
4. He cannot hear us when we pray.
5. He cannot help us be free from the slavery to sin.

*"But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead..." (1Cor. 15:20 NLT)*

Proofs of His Resurrection:

1. The Old Testament prophets predicted it. (Psalm 16:9-10)
2. Jesus predicted it. (Mark 10:23-24)
3. Angels testified to it. (Mark 16:5-7)
4. The Roman seal was broken and a two-ton stone, under Roman guard, was rolled away. (John 20:1)

5. The need for the guards to invent a story. (Matt. 28:11-15)
6. Eyewitness accounts of the empty tomb. (John 20:11-13)
7. Eyewitness accounts of seeing Jesus alive after his death.
  - Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)
  - Other women (Matt. 28:9-10)
  - Two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
  - Peter (Luke 24:33-35)
  - All the disciples except for Thomas (Luke 24:36-48)
  - Thomas with other disciples (John 20:24-29)
  - 7 disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-23)
  - More than 500 people at the same time (1Cor. 15:6)
  - James (1Cor 15:7)
  - 11 disciples at the Great Commission (Matt. 28:16-20)
  - All the disciples at the ascension (Acts 1:9-12)
  - Paul (Acts 9:1-9)
8. The disciples were willing to die for this belief. (Acts 5:17-42)
9. The disciples were willing to give their whole lives to travel the world to tell this story. (Acts 13)
10. The hundreds of millions of people down through the ages whose lives have been transformed by the power of Christ. (Eph. 1:18-20)

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*Thank you for sending your son Jesus to the earth. I believe Jesus was who he said he was and proved it by rising from the dead. I want to begin to follow your plan and purpose for my life. I want to know you personally. Forgive me for my sins. I am sorry and done with my old way of living. Thank you for dying for me and forgiving me. I receive you as my Lord and Savior today and love you with all my heart. Amen!*