

God Has A Plan

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 16th, 2006 • Easter Sunday • Pastor Chris Lankford

**FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE WHAT I ALSO RECEIVED, THAT CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, AND THAT HE WAS BURIED, AND THAT HE WAS RAISED ON THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES,
~ 1ST CORINTHIANS 15:3-4 (NASB)**

1) God's Plan Revealed -- The Gospel

- A) When it seems all is lost, Christ is dead and buried and the disciples have scattered, Jesus comes back to life (1st Corinthians 15:1-4). The Good News (the Gospel) is born!

- B) We must "receive" (have faith/trust -- John 1:12) the truth of this message (that Christ lived a sinless life, died for our sins, and was resurrected on the third day) through repentance and life change (born again -- John 3:1-8).

- C) The single most important Easter question all of us should ask is "Have I responded in faith to the life of Jesus Christ?"

2) God's Future Plan Revealed -- Victory

- A) The first assurance for everyone who is "in Christ" is that Jesus wins the battle against evil, sin, and death (1st Corinthians 15:20-26). If you are in Christ, you are on the winning team!

- B) You receive an "imperishable body" for eternity (1st Corinthians 15:42-49), which is to be lived in Heaven (Matthew 25:31-46), with God forever (Revelation 22:1-5).

3) God's Current Plan Revealed -- Life Change Through His Church

- A) **God's plan is relational.** Jesus is the head of the church (Colossians 1:15-20), and has called on us to be participants in His church in authentic friendship (Hebrews 10:23-25). We are to know others and be known by others!

- B) **God's plan is occupational.** We are the body of Jesus Christ here on earth (1st Corinthians 12:14-27). Jesus asks us to invest in His church (time, talent, and treasure). Christianity is participatory -- be a part of the movement!

- C) **God's plan is spiritual.** This practical "living out" of the body of Christ in His church is "acceptable worship" to God (Romans 12:1-21). Worship is not some esoteric mumbo-jumbo religiosity thing! Worship is how you live -- all the time -- in all places -- in a life which honors God!