

# He Is Risen!

Long Beach Alliance Church • Easter Sunday • April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

**~1<sup>st</sup> John 4:9-10 (NASB)**

## 1) What God Requires, He Provides

- A) Before Easter Sunday could occur (of course), Jesus Christ was crucified by Roman authorities (Matthew 27:33-56). Before the excitement and wonder of the “Good News,” there is the reality of the “Bad News.”
- B) The Bad News is that all people are sinners, which can sound really offensive! We are created to reflect God’s perfect nature (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:16), but all people fall short of what God intended, which is sin (Romans 3:23; James 2:10).
- C) Clearly, the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23), and those who die in their sins inherit an eternal existence separated from God in Hell (Matthew 23:33; John 3:18).
- D) God’s perfect justice requires judgment for sin (Romans 1:18-25), which is VERY BAD NEWS for you & me! We are wretched and hopeless, like condemned slaves (7:24).

E) In the midst of our hopelessness, God, moved by love, sent His unique Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for our sins and provide a pardon for our death sentence (John 3:16-18). This is GREAT NEWS for all people in all places!

F) You don’t need to earn God’s love, nor can you! Rather, GOD PROVIDES FOR YOU ALL THAT HE REQUIRES OF YOU!

## 2) A Faithful Response To The Miracle Of Easter

- A) God is motivated by His love (John 3:16) and mercy (Romans 3:25) to save mankind – which is our only hope! God has made a way through Jesus Christ (John 14:6)!
- B) The only way to take hold of salvation is to have faith (trust) in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9). What are we having faith in? Simply, it’s faith in Jesus.
  - i. First, we must “have faith” in Jesus Christ through the teaching of God’s Word, the Bible (Romans 10:17). This is the “content” of our faith.
  - ii. Second, we must “believe” that Jesus is Savior and that salvation is through Him alone (Hebrews 11:6). This is the “trust” element in faith.
  - iii. Third, we must be “faithful” and live righteous lives (Romans 1:17, 2 Timothy 2:11-13). This is how we “persevere” in faith.
- C) God promises that what He provides, He will also perfect! As His children (1<sup>st</sup> John 3:1; Ephesians 1:5-6), God unites us with Jesus in both His perfect death & eternal life (Galatians 2:20). The old is gone, the new has come (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:17). Our lives can have eternal significance and purpose, as we increasingly live for Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:21).

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**For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study...** Have you noticed that all people want to discuss these days is the Good News, while ignoring the Bad News? Why do you think people reject the Bad News of judgment, God’s wrath, and Hell? If there isn’t any Bad News, does anyone really need Good News? What have you done with both the Bad News and the Good News? Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ? Tell your story!