



10 April 2026

After Easter

We are one week removed from the sober reflection of Good Friday and almost a week from the joyful celebration of Easter. Easter is at the foundation of our faith, it is the most important event in history.

Now what?



Do we return to *normal*, having packed away the decorations and songs for another year? In one sense we need to be focused on the normal with the challenges, opportunities, responsibilities and a host of things that crowd our lives. After Jesus' resurrection, chapter 21 in John's gospel records Peter and two other disciples returning to what they used to do, fishing. While some think they were abandoning Christ, at least temporarily, it seems to me that, as one wrote, "Even though Jesus be crucified and risen from the dead, the disciples must still *eat!*"

But Easter should never fade in our rear view mirror. That is because Easter is not just an historical or once a year event, but a life changing, transforming force. Because Christ was raised and lives, so we who have placed our faith in Him live and will be raised. Jesus told us, recorded in John chapter 14, "because I live, you also will live" (19). As Paul wrote in Romans chapter 6, "if we have become united with [Christ] in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection" (5). Jesus not only transforms us from being sinners who are separated from God to being saints who have fellowship with Him, He transforms us to live as God designed us to live. And so, as it is often said, Christians are *Easter people*, are *resurrection people*.

Remember, as Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Being new creations, having new life, we are to *live it*. As Paul also wrote in Romans chapter 6, "we too may walk in newness of life" (4). God has given us instruction in the Bible of how we are to walk, how we are to live. As Paul told the church at Thessalonica, we are to walk to please God, to excel in pleasing God (1 Thessalonians 4:1).

Let's consider a few things to keep us on track.

A good place to start, and keep going, is to allow God to change our focus. Jesus tells us, “seek first [God’s] kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things (food, clothing, etc.) will be provided to you” (Matthew 6:33). Yes, God tells us and expects us to work diligently, but our focus in and through all of that is to be on God, His kingdom and righteousness. Basic to this change in focus is trusting God, God who “knows what you need before you ask Him” (Matthew 6:8).

With this focus, we are to keep moving forward in our relationship with God. The apostle Peter instructs us, “grow [*keep growing*] in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). Peter began that letter with “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.” Keep reading, learning and applying the truth of God’s word. Keep growing in being a person of grace, extending understanding, acceptance, encouragement and forgiveness.

Coupled with that, as Peter wrote in the previous verse, is “be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unscrupulous people and lose your own firm commitment.” In his first letter he tells us, “be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (5:8). Always be alert, keep your eyes open, be on your guard. There is a constant and growing stream of false teaching, and also of teaching that “majors on minors” which can lead us off course, astray. Be like the Bereans who were “examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

One more, out of many, keep serving Jesus. Whatever place or stage of life, God, who has gifted You for serving Him, has opportunities for you to walk in the path of “good works, which [He] prepared beforehand so that [you] would walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). Before time as we know it began, God prepared everything He wants you and me to do — the specific timing, situation, and actions. He has prepared it all. Our responsibility is to “walk in them”, to follow God’s leading, His path by faith.

After Easter keep living as an Easter person!

Pastor Lyle