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Giving Thanks for the Hope that Easter Brings

A Commentary by Jason Curry



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Even though I have read their enlightening discussions for several years, I remain fascinated by the words of biblical scholars who have discussed the importance of Christmas in light of the Easter moment. For example, some biblical scholars have declared that Christmas is the most important day, for if Jesus had not been born, we would not be able to celebrate Resurrection Sunday. Other biblical scholars has argued that Easter is as important as, if not more important than, Christmas day, for if Jesus had not risen from the dead, we would not be saved. In Romans 10:9, Paul tells the church in Rome: "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." For those who may have accepted or be wrestling with the call to preach the gospel or "goodnews," Paul goes on to say in 1 Corinthians 15:14: "If Christ be not

raised from the dead, then our preaching is in vain..." I pray that historians, theologians and people who simply love the Lord will always continue to discuss the importance of Easter morning as well as Christmas day. However, I firmly believe that Easter will always have a special significance in the hearts and minds of people throughout Salvation history because Jesus made forthright, conscious, and sacrificial decision to reconcile or reconnect humanity with God through the Easter experience. Through Jesus' ultimate sacrifice we have been redeemed, our sins have been forgiven, and we now have an opportunity to receive eternal life. Indeed, the hope that Jesus has given us resurrection moment was captured by William Gaither in the refrain: "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, because he lives, all fear is gone. Because I know who holds the future, life is worth the living just because he

lives." To be sure, Jesus died on Friday, and rose on Sunday morning. His life is both symbolic of as well as the manifestation of God's ultimate and redemptive power as revealed in humanity. Inasmuch as Jesus was raised from the dead, his life is able to provide hope to those who may be on the brink of a spiritual death. Some may believe that being free from drugs is an impossibility. Some may believe that being in a healthy relationship is beyond the realm of reason. Some may being that they will never manage their finances successfully. Jesus' resurrection is proof positive that all things are still possible through God. As we pause to celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave, let us continue to give thanks for the hope, in a better life that Easter is able and sure to bring.