
Walking Towards the Cross: Why Easter?

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, April 21, 2019*

Why Are You Here?

Easter Is About Celebrating the Cross and The Resurrection and How They Bring Victory Now and Victory Then

The Problem: Too Many People Have Settled for Religion
Instead of a Relationship with Jesus

Easter Basics

The Choice – by Max Lucado

Easter Teaches Us the Most Basic,
Yet the Most Powerful Aspect of God's Character

1. God Loves You

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”
John 3:16, ESV

2. God's Love Is Not Based on Your Character

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.” *Romans 5:8, NLT*

Actions Define Character

3. The Cross Is God's Way to Free You from the Consequences of the Way You Live

"This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." **1 John 4:10, NLT**

4. The Resurrection Is the Evidence That God Has the Power to Save You from You

"That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all—was put to death and then made alive—to bring us to God." **1 Peter 3:18, MSG**

This is Why Easter...

Being Able to Try Again
Without the Weight of The Past

"Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new" **2 Corinthians 5:17, MSG**

"For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it." **Ephesians 2:8–9, GNB**

Every Person Is Hungry for God

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee" – St. Augustine

Prayer to Connect to the Hope of Easter

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the grave to give me New Life. I know You are the only way to God. I choose to quit disobeying You and today I give you my life. Please forgive me, change my life and show me how to know You better. In Jesus' name. Amen