

Martin's Easter Message



Dear Friends

C.S Lewis wrote, *“Always prefer the direct word to the long, vague one. Don’t implement promises, but keep them.”* I’ve often seen the phrase “Promises are made to be broken,” if we are to believe this phrase to be true, then why would we want to make promises at all! It’s so easy to view the making of promises from an insular perspective without considering the person you are making the promise to. Abraham Lincoln put it like this, *“We must not promise what we ought not, lest we be called on to perform what we cannot.”*

The dictionary defines promise as *“a declaration that one will do or refrain from doing something specified; a vow.”* There are some promises that concern small matters and others that will be life changing. One should not therefore view promises as being issued glibly for, by their very nature, they are not to be broken. Sadly, many are, and for any number of reasons. However, the person on the receiving end of that broken promise will feel the sting of disappointment. We all need to acknowledge that we are flawed people and break promises, but God never does. God is completely faithful and does what he says he will do. *“God’s way is perfect. All the Lord’s promises prove true.” Psalm 18:30.* Note the word “All” used by the Psalmist; All, not some of God’s promises prove true. God might not fulfil them as we may think they should, but he will keep his word.

Soon, Easter will be upon us and Christians around the world will be celebrating this important event within the Christian calendar, although due to the pandemic will be in a different way. However, far too many will view the Easter story as boring, irrelevant and repetitive. But the basic facts are before us all. Jesus was arrested, crucified and on the third day, God raised him from the dead. Yet, it’s easy to miss the most important part of the story. We miss what turns Easter from a one-dimensional holiday to a multi-dimensional life transforming experience. The message of the resurrection is not just Jesus’ story; it’s our story as well. We are all part of Jesus’ death and resurrection and he didn’t just prove there was life after death, but proved that we are promised life after death, beyond the grave. It is Billy Graham who said; *“When we trust Christ for our salvation, then death simply becomes a transition between this world and the next-like walking through a doorway from one room to another.”*

One-day life will come to an end and our earthly bodies will cease to function, but God formed us in his image and made us to last forever. That’s why there is more to life than we think, for Jesus makes us an amazing promise; *“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” John 11:25-26.* This is quite a promise! Jesus proved it through his resurrection, otherwise we would have had no reason to believe it and miss our chance for eternal life. As Easter comes upon us the truth hangs upon his promises, the good news that Jesus rose from the dead. However, what turns this truth from black and white to living colour is that one day; for Paul writes, *“By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also” 1 Corinthians 6:14.* This is the promise of Easter.

May you all have a blessed Easter.

Shalom

Martin