

# WORD OF THE DAY



## WORD OF THE DAY (1 Peter 1:3)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the **Resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead."

### (HAPPY RESURRECTION SUNDAY (Easter



**Happy Resurrection Sunday to our *WORD of the Day* devotional family, all 49 members!** Christians have celebrated Easter Sunday for hundreds of years. In early church history, the early Catholic historian [Eusebius](#) gives us some insight into the origins of Easter in his work titled "*Ecclesiastical History*." In his work, we learn that Easter Sunday was celebrated alongside the Jewish holiday of Passover. However, to bring more nonbelievers into the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, some pagan traditions were adopted. Such practices included the symbolism of rabbits and eggs, which originated in Babylon from pagan worship (Anglo-Saxon goddess [Eostre](#) --Easter) that signified fertility. As a result, some Christians prefer the term Resurrection Sunday (instead of Easter), while others feel comfortable with Easter (not desiring to be legalistic). While churches may be divided in the term used, today we are united in celebrating Jesus and His Resurrection.

**Jesus is Risen.** Jesus was known for His great teachings and His miracles; however, all of these would mean nothing without the Resurrection. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God and claimed to have the keys to eternal life, yet all of these would be empty without the Resurrection. Jesus declared that He would come again to judge the world of sin and give His followers immortal resurrected bodies, yet these claims would have fallen on deaf ears without the Resurrection. Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have just been another "good" teacher. Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have just been another person sharing their perspective on morality and theology. However, because of the Resurrection, we know that Jesus was not just another good teacher but also the revealed image of God. And because of the Resurrection, Jesus was proven to be not just another person sharing their perspective, but the Son of God sharing God's Truth. The only truth.

**Because He Lives, all bets are off.** After the crucifixion, the early followers of Jesus were hiding and fearful for their lives. However, when they saw the resurrected Christ, all bets were off. No longer would they be cowardly, weak individuals scared of men(humanity), but they would be bold Christians on spiritual fire for the Lord. They would have a message to share, and the gates of hell would not stop the word from going out. As a result, these Christians endured the threat of death by hanging, being thrown to lions in the Colosseum of the gladiators, and being put in jail because of their faith in Jesus. Christians today may not face the exact issues. Still, some of our brothers in places like China, Africa, and the Middle East do face death and imprisonment for their faith, while others in the United States risk social isolation and being called intolerant when they share the good news of Jesus. Yet Christians will continue to proclaim the good news because the life of Jesus empowers us to do so. Jesus went all the way in The demonstration of His love for us (to death and beyond); therefore, all bets are off, and we too will go all the way in our living for Christ.

**We have the Victory over Death.** The resurrection of Jesus means that death is defeated. Indeed Jesus talked about having power over death. However, talk is cheap. Instead of simply talking, Jesus demonstrated His power over death on the cross. Having shown us with His actions that He indeed has power over death, we too hold to this blessed hope. His victory over death means that when we die, the grave is not our resting place. No one who believes in Jesus will spend a second in the grave. I repeat, no one who believes in Jesus will spend a single second in the grave. When we die, though our physical bodies remain in the grave awaiting our resurrected bodies, our souls are immediately ushered into the presence of God. Jesus has risen, and because He lives, all bets are off because we have the victory of death and beloved; it is very beautiful. Happy Resurrection Sunday(Easter)!

-Your brother in Christ, WNL

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We do not serve a dead God hanging on a cross, we serve a risen savior seated at the right hand of God the Father.

## PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*Dear God, thank you for demonstrating your love for us while we were yet sinners by dying for our sins. However your death is not the best part. The best part is your resurrection because it changes everything. Your resurrection gives us hope, it empowers us, and it makes life worth living. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.*



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