

Easter Sunday 2017 - **Death's Defeat**

Pastor Bryan Keith Dugger - 4/16/2017



I. The Inevitable

II. Death & Resurrection

John 19:28-30 & Mark 16:5-8

III. Victory

1st Corinthians 15:54-57

IV. Eternal Life

Personal Reflection

Take time this week to pray & respond to the following:

Some events in life are both unpleasant & inevitable—work, taxes, sickness, conflict, etc. Each brings their own challenges & threats to our sense of security. Undoubtedly, the most feared among these inevitabilities is death. Everyone dies.

Death is unpleasant to think about because the experience of dying is usually uncomfortable & is oftentimes not immediately anticipated. Though physical death means the end of earthly life, it is by no means the end of your story.

You will exist eternally, either in the heaven of God's presence or in the exile of Hell. The sting of death is the condemnation that sin brings to those who are not prepared to be judged by holy God. Easter is about Jesus' defeat of death & the securing of eternal life for all who will trust in Him for forgiveness & salvation. You have the opportunity to be set free from the curse of sin & to enjoy the blessings of the Redeemed because the Son faithfully completed His Father's mission.

Do you really appreciate the fact that you will always exist? Are you able to celebrate Jesus' victory over sin & death because you are among those who have been redeemed? Have you been set free from worry & slavery to the pursuits of worldly things can never truly satisfy?

Prayerfully express your thankfulness to God that Jesus paid the price for your salvation. Rejoice in the fact that you need not fear the passage of time because God has offered you an eternal home in His presence. Commit to be less of a worrier & more of a worshipper who responds to God's leading with obedience & who tells others about His love with unrelenting diligence.