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EASTER FACTS & EASTER LIVING

by

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"The Protestant Faith"

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Today we are all on holiday and we have been since Thursday and we will have tomorrow off as well. It is Easter time. The schools are full of the Easter Bunny as though a bunny could give us a holiday! The Easter Bunny underlines the truth of Good Friday and Easter, for it shows what we men and women are like. We hate to think about God and about His judgement on our sins and His power in the resurrection, and so we substitute a bunny to direct our mind from the facts which underly Easter. For Easter is the commemoration of the mighty act of God in raising Jesus from the dead. No one but God could do it, but by nature we hate to think about God because we hate to submit ourselves to his Lordship, even though He is our Creator and will be our Judge. Good Friday, the day on which Jesus was crucified, was the expression of mankind's hatred for God. We have only to read the gospel narratives to see how innocent Jesus was. His life was perfectly free from anything which could be criticized, but His very goodness was a threat and a condemnation of others. That is why so many groups combined to destroy Him. The crucifixion was the result of mankind's sinfulness, and we should include ourselves amongst those who crucified Jesus. For we too are men and women, sinners by nature and needing forgiveness.

But the cross is not only a sign of our sinfulness but it is also a sign of victory over sin because throughout that terrible experience Jesus never gave way to anything wrong. His faith in God never dimmed, His obedience never faltered. Right to the very end, even to the point of bearing our sins in His own body He was obedient to

God's will. The resurrection followed naturally, for having overcome sin it was a small matter to overcome death which is the sign and consequence of sin. The crucifixion and the resurrection are a unity, and they prove that God is in control of this world, judging sin and rewarding victory over sin. His love has provided the way of forgiveness from the coming judgement through the Lord Jesus Christ Who died and rose again for our salvation. Jesus, the Son of God, put His faith in His Heavenly Father and was fully obedient and so has become the cause of salvation to all who will put their faith in Him and obey Him, acknowledging Him to be Lord.

The cross and the resurrection are the centre of world history and it points to the fact of a righteous, loving and powerful God. Make Him the centre of your life now and for eternity. The truth of the resurrection is vindicated by the eye witnesses who saw the empty tomb and later met with the risen Jesus and spoke with Him and received His commission to preach the gospel. And the proof of the resurrection is further vindicated by the experience of Christians through the centuries and in the present day who abundantly testify to the fact that Jesus lives and through His Spirit is in personal fellowship with them, forgiving them their sins, and giving them joy and peace in believing. God is at work in the world condemning sin and saving those who call on His name and this work will be complete when He brings in the new heaven and new earth in which dwells righteousness.

Easter is a reminder of these great facts. We should live

by them. Do not be a fool by substituting a bunny.

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