

Glen Davis

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship
Separated By Space; United By Spirit



April 6, 2020

To the scattered Chi Alphans,

The earliest Christians thrived in part through letters, and God willing so will we. I hope that you are staying safe and sane. My family is doing well. Like you, our kids are doing all their schooling online and (perhaps like you) they are loving it.

As I write these words, Easter is coming up. A simple definition of a Christian is someone who believes in the resurrection of Jesus and lives in light of its implications. I hope that describes you. If it does, you will find encouragement as you reflect upon these truths:

Easter means we have hope even in hard times. The dead Jesus was raised to life by the awesome power of God. As we celebrate the resurrection, with Paul I pray that you may know “His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead” (Eph 1:19-20). Read that verse again - the same power that overcame the grave can overcome your problems! Turn to God. Cast your cares upon Him, because He cares for you.

Easter means we can have a fresh start. The sins of the world were placed on Jesus and yet He was brought back to eternal life. Romans 4:25 teaches us that Jesus “was raised to life for our justification.” His resurrection makes us righteous. Just as Easter was the first day of Christ’s new life, Easter can be the first day of ours as well. If these days of pandemic have brought out the worst in you, allow the day called Easter to bring out the best instead and let that become your new reality.

Easter means Jesus is with us. After His resurrection Jesus promised “surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). Even if you feel lonely and isolated in this season of shelter-in-place orders, He is with you today and He will be with you tomorrow. Talk to Him in prayer.

Easter means Jesus is Lord. Acts 17:31 reminds us that God “has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” The resurrection shows us that Jesus was not just another prophet. He is risen, therefore He reigns. We can confidently look forward to a day when this broken world is healed and disease is a memory. When you don’t know what else to do, remind yourself that Jesus is Lord and He is good.

Some of you will receive this letter before Easter, others after. Whenever it arrives, I pray the implications of Easter encourage you in these troubled times.

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P.S. If you would like to read some good scholarship about the resurrection, either N.T. Wright’s *The Resurrection of the Son of God* or Michael Licona’s *The Resurrection of Jesus: A New Historiographical Approach* will stimulate you intellectually as well as encourage you spiritually.