

Easter Reflections

Easter is the most important Christian holiday, and it is worth noting that it is also the only authentic Christian holiday based on Scripture. Traditional Catholic Easter lasts four days. It consists of Good Friday (the death and suffering of Christ), Holy Saturday (a time of quiet anticipation), Easter Sunday (the resurrection of Jesus), and Easter Monday, which is more of a folk celebration than a religious holiday. For Christians, Easter is a reminder of the fulfillment of Jesus' mission, which was his righteous, sinless life, culminating in the sacrifice of his life by allowing himself to be voluntarily arrested, sentenced to death, and nailed to the cross, so that on the third day he might rise from the dead. Through this, Jesus triumphed over God's adversary and over death. He opened up for the rest of us the hope of redemption from sin, the hope of reconciliation with God, and the hope of eternal life in God's kingdom.

Jesus did not command us to celebrate Easter the way we do. He only said, as he established the new covenant with his apostles and broke bread, that we should remember him (Luke 22:19). The Apostle Paul later explained: *“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this*

do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, after he had eaten, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do you, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (1 Cor 11:23–26)

In this unassuming way, Jesus establishes a covenant with humanity—a covenant that is a blessing for all nations, races, tribes, and languages on earth. It is no coincidence that Christ’s covenant is established precisely on the biblical feast of Passover (Hebrew: פסח). God established this biblical feast when the Israelites left Egypt, so that they might remember that the blood of the Lamb protected them from the final plague in Egypt and that, with God’s help, they were delivered from slavery.

Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb (1 Cor. 5:7), sets us free from the bondage of sin and death (Rom. 6:6). He is the Lamb whose blood cleanses us and sanctifies us for a righteous and pure way of life.

Jesus foretold that as the end of this age approaches, lawlessness will increase and the love of many will grow cold (Matt. 24:12). Paul described to Timothy (2 Tim. 3:1–5) specifically how many people will behave in the last days.

Today’s world closely resembles Paul’s description. Biblical prophecies describe the state of humanity in the last days, but also God’s plan of salvation. The worse the spiritual condition of society becomes, the more we need to remind ourselves of the price Jesus Christ paid for us. For living

according to God's values will be harder, just as it is harder to live in a sick body. And we live in a sick human society. To have the strength to resist difficulties and the influence of the sickness that exhausts us, we need to remind ourselves that we can overcome all of this, just as our Lord Jesus overcame death. He is with us always, as He promised, if we keep His commandments, and He will not leave us if we do not leave Him.

Easter is a reminder of the love that God the Father and His Son have for us. It is a reminder of Jesus Christ's victory over death through His resurrection. It is also a reminder of Jesus' words: "*... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*" (Matthew 28:18–20) Amen.