

Easter: Its *True* Meaning



EASTER: ITS TRUE MEANING

When asked to reflect on the meaning of Easter what comes to mind? Is it the iconic image of Jesus hanging on the cross? Or has this historic event been distorted over time to a mere legend? Has its symbolism been shifted from the cross to a bunny, and its significance to the consumption of chocolate?

Perhaps some of you are still confused about Easter. Think back 2000 years ago. People were standing right before that cross, and they were much more confused than you. They could see a suffering man. It was obvious He was going to die. The problem was they couldn't figure out why. For three years they had seen this Man and heard about Him. He lived a perfectly sinless life. He taught truth like no one before. He did miracles no one had done before. Why was He on the cross? Why was such a noble man suffering like that? Why was the one who gave hope to people looking so hopeless? Why was it that someone who could heal the sick and needy couldn't stop His own suffering?

On that cross was a Man with a mission – God Himself. God on the cross knows all the billions of people and He knows all about our sins. Proud thoughts. Covet looks. Snide words - to people's faces or behind their backs. Resentment towards our partner. Anger towards parents. The list is endless.

God is holy and judges sinners. He's not a corrupt judge. No "blind spots" to His justice. Sometimes we get mad at justice because there seems to be no justice. But with God, there is true justice. On that cross Jesus paid the penalty for all the bad things we ever did. His dying words were a cry of victory. *"It is finished."* What do these words mean? It simply means "fully paid for". It tells us that someone loves us enough to clear us – for eternity. How do you know it's true?

We have God's own promise in the Bible. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16 NKJV)

This is God's gift – specially designed for you. It is a gift prepared long ago. But what is the use of a gift without a receiver? A gift is only a blessing when there's a willing giver and a willing receiver. Gifts cannot be forced on you. It is not enough for Jesus to say, I died for your sins. That goes for everyone. We need to receive it. Have you? Until these two meet, a willing giver and a willing receiver, nobody gets the blessing.

Just one question. Do you believe that on that cross two thousand years ago Jesus paid the penalty for all your sins? Do you believe if something happens to you, you will not be condemned? That you could take your last breath on this earth, and your next breath in eternity? Only remember, where you spend eternity is up to you. Either heaven or hell. Either you will be in the presence of Jesus or far away from Him.

Also remember, when you receive Jesus as your Saviour, you don't get just a passport to heaven. Instead, you receive a partner who guides you, and changes you. Your life will never be the same. How do you know you truly believe? Your life will change, because Christ lives in you.

We hope and pray you discover this peace for yourself. May you know for sure that on the cross Jesus paid for all your sins so that you can have eternal life. If you haven't received Jesus yet, we would like to encourage you to do so as a private matter between you and God. Pray the prayer on the back of the bookmark enclosed. No matter what you are facing or feeling right now, things can change for better. This is what Easter tells us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and then rose again. Death could not hold Him. The tomb where He was laid is empty. Our God is a God of victory.

Even if we
lose
everything else,
there is
something
we cannot lose:
JESUS CHRIST.

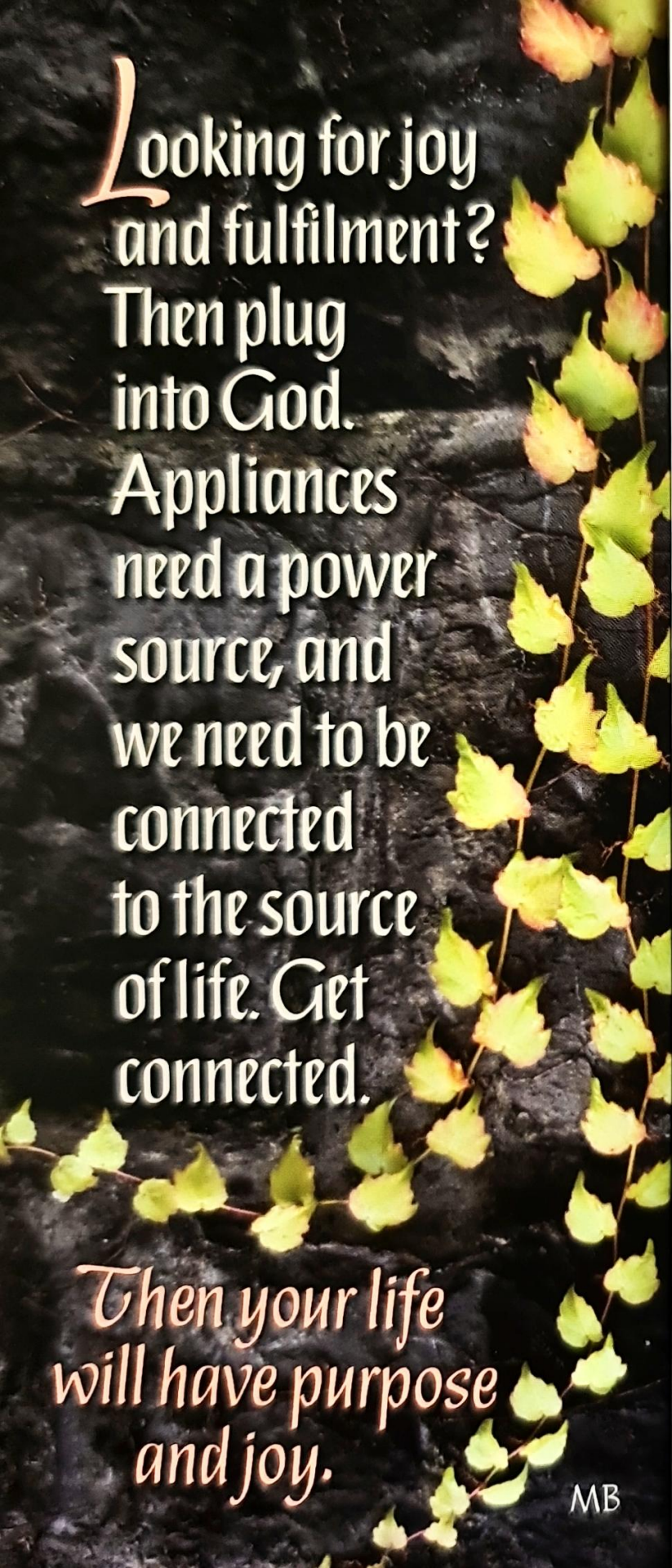


If you have Him,
you have
everything
you need
in the midst
of trouble and
anxiety.

MB

We will be praying that wherever you are
you will experience a special Easter as never before!

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary



Looking for joy
and fulfilment?
Then plug
into God.
Appliances
need a power
source, and
we need to be
connected
to the source
of life. Get
connected.

*Then your life
will have purpose
and joy.*

MB

Prayer:

Jesus,
I don't know you yet, but if you
really exist, please make yourself
real to me.

You see all the things in my life
that need sorting out. You know
my problems and you know I
can't handle them by myself.

I place my life into your hands.
Change me. I want to be able to
say, 'The past is forgotten, and
everything is new. God has done
it all!' Jesus, thank you for loving
me enough to die for me.

Amen.

Bible quotation (2 Corinthians 5:17-18) taken
from the Contemporary English Version.
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Taken from a set of 8 different texts
by M. Basilea Schlink

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