

# **“Easter: Facts, Faith and Feelings”**

Greg Wendschlag April 21, 2019

*“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.” 1 Cor. 15:1-6*

- Fact: what is **true**

*“Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except by me.” John 14:6*

- Faith: **belief** based on factual **evidence**

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Heb. 11:1*

- Feeling: our **emotional** response

*“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” Jer. 17:9*

## **Easter Facts**

- Fact: Jesus lived and claimed to be the God
- Fact: Jesus was crucified for claiming to be God
- Fact: Jesus was buried
- Fact: After three days Jesus rose from the grave and appeared to many witnesses
- Fact: 2000 years later there are millions who believe in Jesus.

## **What happens when feelings and faith collide**

- The religious leaders were envious of Jesus calling for His death
- Pilot was concerned for his position and avoided Jesus
- The disciples were afraid for their lives and deserted Jesus
- One crucified thief challenged Jesus’ for his own benefit.
- The soldiers acknowledged Jesus as God
- The other crucified thief asked Jesus for mercy and received it

## **Will you choose to put your faith in the facts of Jesus?**

1. You can choose to disregard the truth of Jesus, but you will be held accountable for that decision.

*“(Those) who were there gathered around him, saying, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me...” John 10:24-25*

*“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.” Ecc. 12:14*

2. You can choose to do some research and really seek the truth, but be warned of the risk; no man knows the day or hour of his passing.

*“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:10*

*“It is appointed unto man once to die and then the judgment.” Heb. 9:27*

3. You can choose to believe today and have eternal life.

*“In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you. I tell you, now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Cor. 6:2*

*“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you...” 1 Peter. 1:3-4*