

Easter.

For many it's a time of family gatherings, good food, bright colors, bunnies, egg hunts and the sound of children's laughter, but the empty tomb that heralded Jesus Christ's Resurrection from Death gives Easter its' religious significance.

Those who hate Christianity and everything Christ's Name stands for may try to downplay the significance of this day, but it doesn't change the fact that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and then rose from death to life on the 3rd day. Death and the grave couldn't hold Him, because He was no ordinary man. *He was indeed God manifested in the flesh.* That is what distinguishes Christianity from all other religions.

Buddhism has a lot of adherents, but Buddha was a mere man and he couldn't rise from the dead. Many follow Islam but Mohammad was only human, and his body is still in the grave. Judaism has many members, but Moses also was a man who died. None of the leaders in the Hindu religion or any other religion resurrected after they died, either.

Why would God put up with the shame and suffering that Jesus endured? Because of His Love for YOU, and His Desire to free you from sin.

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Why would God put up with the shame and suffering that Jesus endured? Because of His Love for YOU, and His Desire to free you from sin.

The Bible speaks of a Judgment Day in which everyone who ever lived will have to give an account of their lives before God. Buddha, Mohammad, Moses, Krishna, Ghandi, every Pope and every other religious leader who ever lived will one day stand before the Judgment Seat of God, and it will be Christ Himself who Judges them (2 Co 5:10). Those who have rejected Him will spend eternity tormented by the consequences of their sin. One day YOU will stand before that Judgment Seat as well. You probably have already had to deal with the consequence of sin in your life. Imagine dealing with that forever.

But this is the Good News! You don't have to be found guilty when you stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Each of those religions I mentioned earlier represents man's attempts to approach God. Christianity alone is about God's attempt to approach mankind in order to reconcile lost humanity to Himself. Speaking of Christ, we read:

Col 1:19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

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