

## *Easter Day*

*“This is the first day of God’s new week. The darkness has gone, and the sun is shining.”*

Can there be any greater reason to celebrate than affirm what Jesus achieved at Easter? ‘It is finished’ was our Lord’s cry only 3 days earlier, and now we have confirmation by his resurrection from the dead. Let us take this time to remind ourselves of the importance for us of Jesus’ resurrection.

Think though, perhaps contemplate, on the following:-

1. Peter writes (1 Peter 1: 3) ‘he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead’. Jesus’ resurrection (as he told his disciples he would) is confirmation that all he said, all he did, all he promised, all he suffered was the delivery of God’s plan to save us by restoring the relationship with humanity.
2. ‘By raising Christ from the dead, God the Father was in effect saying that he approved of Christ’s work of suffering and dying for our sins, that his work was completed, and that Christ no longer had any need to remain dead. There was no penalty left to pay for sin, no more wrath of God to bear, no more guilt or liability to punishment – all had been completely paid for, and no guilt remained. In the resurrection, God was saying to Christ, “I approve of what you have done, and you find favour in my sight’. (Wayne Grudem)
3. How should we understand this? (Romans 4: 25) ‘He was delivered over to death for our sins and raised to life for our justification’. If we remember that we are united with Christ (Ephesians 2: 6 – ‘And God raised us up with Christ) then God’s approval of Christ (all sin and guilt paid for), is also his approval of us, once we trusted in (united with) Christ for salvation. Christ’s resurrection earned our justification.
4. Paul says that his goal in life (Philippians 3: 10) ‘I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection’. Paul knew that Jesus had earned for us a new life – even in this life – resurrection power is new power for Christian ministry and obedience to God.