Today We Celebrate

by

Phil Rasmussen

Today, Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb. While today signifies Christ's triumph over death, it more than a simple resurrection.

The history of man's inhumanity to man is well known and documented. Long before the crucifixion of Christ, Hammurabi, the king of Babylon in 1772 BC, impaled criminals and enemies. While impalement was horrific, most victims died almost immediately.

Following Titus's <u>Siege of Jerusalem</u> (70 BC), crucifixion emerged as a means of public torturing and killing of criminals and enemies of state. By Christ's time, the Romans has perfected the "<u>art of crucifixion</u>." Crucifixion was generally carried out by Roman soldiers who were specially trained to exert the maximum amount of pain, shock and longevity on the cross. In other words, Jesus's death was horrific.

It was <u>preordained</u> that Jesus would die for the sins of mankind in order to bring both the righteous and unrighteous to God (<u>1 Peter 3:18</u>). But Jesus did not die just for our sins. His death on the cross was also meant to show us God's <u>love</u> and <u>justice</u>.

Christ's resurrection frees us from our sin and bondage to evil; and that, if we believe in Christ, we will have eternal life with God.



The Easter holiday is not about, and should not be about, holidays, days off from work, vacations, or Easter egg hunts, but rather a time for reflection on who and what we are.

Easter is the beginning of our hope and salvation! Christ's resurrection bestows on us God's favor and blessings as a reminder that His love endures forever.