



Easter, a time for celebration

The New Testament states that the resurrection of Jesus, which Easter celebrates, is the foundation of the Christian faith. The resurrection established Jesus as the powerful Son of God and is cited as proof that God will judge the world in righteousness.

What is the true meaning of Easter, and why do we hide the eggs and go hunt them? I found this definition which is what I have been taught since I was a child. This is what I believe.

The meaning of Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. The meaning of Easter also symbolizes the complete verification of all that Jesus preached and taught during His three-year ministry.

If He had not risen from the dead, if He had merely died and not been resurrected, He would have been considered just another teacher or Rabbi. However, His resurrection changed all that and gave final and irrefutable proof that He was really the Son of God and that He had conquered death once and for all.

But what about the eggs and the Easter bunny? When I was a child I was never concerned about what the egg and the bunny represented, I just had fun and enjoyed myself.

As I grew older I began to question what does the Easter bunny and the eggs represent? I was thinking it was about exploiting the true meaning and turning it into commercialism to maximize profits for big business.

As I researched this I found something interesting about the eggs. For Christians, the Easter egg is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Painting Easter eggs is an especially beloved tradition in the Orthodox and Eastern Catholic churches where the eggs are dyed red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross.

Easter eggs are blessed by the priest at the end of the Paschal vigil and distributed to the congregants. The hard shell of the egg represents the sealed Tomb of Christ, and cracking the shell represents Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Moreover, historically Christians would abstain from eating eggs and meat during Lent, and Easter was the first chance to eat eggs after a long period of abstinence. (Orthodox Christians continue to abstain from eggs during Lent.)

Easter egg hunts and egg rolling are two popular egg-related traditions. An egg hunt involves hiding eggs outside for children to run around and find on Easter morning. Eggs are rolled as a symbolic re-enactment of the rolling away of the stone from Christ's tomb. In the United States, the Easter Egg Roll is an annual event that is held on the White House lawn each Monday after Easter.

This is all new to me, whether it's true or not I didn't bother to check but I do like the story.

Now what about the Easter bunny? I couldn't find much about the bunny, it seems to be more of a tradition carried on by immigrants that migrated to this country. Below is one of the stories that I found that sounds reasonable.

The first Easter Bunny legend was documented in the 1500s. By 1680, the first story about a rabbit laying eggs and hiding them in a garden was published. These legends were brought to the United States in the 1700s, when German immigrants settled in Pennsylvania Dutch country, according to the Center for Children's Literature and Culture.

I'll stick to what the bible teaches, Jesus was resurrected after He died on a cross for the sin of man. He defeated what we fear most, death! We can also defeat death by believing God sent Jesus here to save us from eternal death.

Thank God for being so patient with us, without Jesus there would be no us. Come and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Sunday we have a great program planned.

A follower of Christ,
Rob

