

THE THIRD DAY

I Corinthians 15:1-8

- I After the Baptism of his baby brother in Church, little in the back seat of his Dad's Buick. Timmy sobbed all the way home and his father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the little boy replied: "That Priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"
- II Establishing and maintaining a Christian home is no small task, but our Easter text from I Corinthians 15 assists us in ordering our lives and priorities – assistance most young families require.
- III Paul wrote: I want to remind you of the Gospel I preached to you ... 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 the things of first importance:
- That Christ died for our sins
 - That He was buried
 - That He was raised on the third day
 - And that he appeared to Peter, the Twelve, etc.
- IV This Scripture delineates the essence of the Gospel.
- A They comprise the essentials of the Gospel and one can hear the genesis of the Apostles' Creed.
- B During Holy Week, we heard Isaiah's Spirit-inspired prophecy concerning our Lord's:
- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Suffering | Death |
| Burial | Resurrection |
- C Isaiah wrote: He was bruised for our iniquities
The chastisement bringing us peace was upon Him
With His stripes we are healed
He was numbered with the transgressors
He was cut off out of the land of the living
He made His grave with the rich at His death
But He will see His see and prolong His days
- V Jesus had been brutally beaten with a cruel whip and was almost dead from loss of blood.
- A The Crown of thorns added to His pain
- B The nails increased His Blood loss

- C Finally in the throes of asphyxia, He commended His spirit to His Father.
- D The spear thrust through His side into His Sacred Heart proved positively that He was indeed dead.
- E Yet, in the 3rd day, His tomb was bare
- VI At first, the women and the disciples were distraught!
- A But joy trumped sorrow as they encountered Him.
- B I have seen the Lord! Was Mary Magdalene's evangelical proclamation.
- VII These truths animate our faith but they may be boring to those who are seemingly satisfied with their lives.
- A Those who are comfortably contented with their lives question why Christians care so much for Easter and the Church including giving sacrificially of themselves and their substance.
- B Their family does not require the aid of the Church in ordering their lives.
- C The issue facing the 21st Century Church is: What will be vital for the Church to employ to cause them to be intrigued by Jesus?
- D It's not a building or its trappings or its liturgy regardless of the beauty of either.
- E My belief is that it is the continual proclamation of the essentials of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- F Programs, entertainment, and gimmicks produce something, but whether it produces saving faith is another matter.
- VIII Easter is a riddle for some, but provides a firm foundation for others.
- IX God – so to speak – gave Easter as a gift for:
- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| Unhappy | Confused | Frustrated |
| Fearful | Anxious | Lonely |
| Depressed | Discouraged | Weary |
- Those tormented by sin or guilt
 Anguished souls seeking meaning in life
 The dying who wish not to die forever
- X God loves these people with infinite tenderness.
- A On this Gospel we have staked our eternal destiny
- B Either Jesus is Lord or a hoax
- C Either Jesus lives or we have been deceived
- D Faith in Him has been received or not
- XI But if we become convinced that Jesus died – for us – and rose again – for us – then we are aroused by his Sacrifice.
- XII The Cross and the empty tomb trumpet the message that God loves us.

- XIII The passion of our love for God in Christ may wax and wane, but the flame of Jesus' love cannot be extinguished.
- XIV On Easter morning we discover a nude tomb.
- XV He is not here! He is risen! Echoes down the hallways of history.
- XVI Death is done in
 Done for
 Declawed of its sting
 Neutered of its victory
- A No longer need humanity fear death – Jesus defeated it.
- B Jesus descended so deeply into death that he emerged on the other side with abundant life available to all.
- XVII This FEAT occurred on the 3rd day.
- A During creation, on the 3rd day God said: Let the land burst forth with green things and fruitful trees!
- B Now the earth has sprouted its greatest yield: Our Savior is not a dead deity but a Living Lord.
- C During the time of Moses as Israel arrived at Mount Sinai, it was on the 3rd day that God appeared!
- XVIII In the garden where the tomb was located, God in Christ appeared making the garden a new Eden.
- XIX Some may have doubts, but this Easter can be your 3rd day!
- A The day you give your life to Jesus Christ who loves you no matter what you are or what you have done.
- B Today someone may be resurrected from doubt as new life in Christ is discovered reordering one's life by the power of His Spirit that enables Him to subdue all things unto Himself – even death.
- C For love is stronger than sin - superior to death.