

Blog: Easter

It's not easy to write something that may bring offense to others. So, my apologies to all as God wills. Sometimes, we are compelled to simply say something that must be said. "I wish the day that Jesus arose was not called Easter."

Think about how much more difficult it would be to hijack a day that's called, "The Resurrection Day of Jesus." There's no room within that for bunnies, colored eggs, and lots of chocolate is there?

Recently, someone told me about how to get older kids to participate in a family Easter egg hunt. Just hide money in some of the eggs.

Now, in case anyone is wondering how to hide money in an egg we first must not use eggs at all. Just buy empty plastic things that look like eggs that come apart so we can put things inside. And that's it. Bob's your uncle! (U.K. saying)

Now to help some who may think such talk is against capitalism, the flag, our mothers and apple pie take a few breaths first. Also, this is not a condemnation of the church. Although, with a history like the church has a little condemnation of a few things might be in order come judgement day.

Then what is this about? A desecration of one of the most holy events in the history of the world? Nope, though the folks holding this position have some merit to their perspectives. This is about something different.

It's about us paying attention to what we think is normal that distracts us from what is God's best. Hopefully, we can all agree that God's best is always better than anything else we might think or do. Yes? Yes.

Let's say we each have a decision we can make. We can choose door 1 that has \$1.00 in its room, door 2 that has \$100,000.00 behind it, or door 3 that hides \$1,000,000,000.00 behind it. Oh, and we all know how much is behind each of the three doors. How hard would it be for any of us to select door number three?

Well, it may surprise some of us that we are consistently choosing door number one, and acting like we got what's behind door three. Sounds pretty crazy doesn't it? "So crazy as to be unbelievable", many of us might say. No argument from me, but it's still what's happening to all of us at times, or constantly.

How can that be? Now, how to explain this... Ok, let's say all around us our circumstances, and those around the world, are represented with doors that have a big number one on them. Every decision we might make has this door #1 as an option. Yes, behind each one is \$1.00. All the same. Never different.

At the same time in the middle of all these circumstances there is one door with the number three on it, and yes, it has \$1,000,000,000.00 behind it. Oh, and we'd better have a few door #2's around just to be able to say some of us get lucky.

Should it still be easy for us to choose door 3? What if we think it's our responsibility to manage each of the circumstances connected with each of those doors that have the big number one?

Some of those number one doors have things we must deal with every day. Some relate to various types of events. There's monthly circumstances for us to manage, and also those that are yearly in their

repetition. More than enough are connected to strong emotions, and all of them connect to feelings we also must manage. Last, are those doors that have significant emergencies that demand our time. What if we're told we must manage what's behind all those doors with #1 before we can open door #3?

Now, is it still easy to choose door 3? What if we've heard door 3 has more money, but we have no idea how much? How about if it's going to cost us money and time instead of having money for us? Let's add to this that we haven't really seen door #3 yet, but there are people who tell us it's there, and it's worth the cost. How easy is it now to choose door three?

Last, we'll take the important events that people tell us are special behind door #3, and we'll make them look like all the demands surrounding all the doors with the big number one. Ok, now please tell me how easy it will be to choose door 3?

Will we even be able to see door 3? If we ever get a glimpse of door 3, how much time are we going to have to spend thinking about choosing it? Will we have any time at all?

So, let's take the most significant events in the history of humankind, in fact in all of eternity, that's behind door #3 and let's call them something else. The birth of Jesus will be referred to a Christmas, the day Jesus died we'll call Good Friday, and the day Jesus arose from the grave we'll call Easter.

Also, let's take those events and attach all kinds of special responsibilities that impact all of us. With two out of the three events, we'll make them so commercialized that the events they're meant to celebrate are mostly, or completely hidden from any of us except those who work hard to retain some of their intended focus.

Does door 3 look any more attractive to us? My point may have become a bit belabored by now, but is it really overstated?

We can tell people that Jesus is behind door #3 inviting them to knock, and promise entry into an eternity of joy, peace, and fulfillment in the presence of God in heaven. But if it looks and feels the same to people as the other doors how many of us will ever pick door number three?

Satan is an expert at hiding God from us within all the responsibilities, demands, and problems of living in this world. He has even gotten people associated with door #3 to make it more difficult reach than other doors.

These folks have all types of rules, formal processes that are not easily understood, and a bunch of people checking everyone out that approach's door #3 with a judgmental eye. How many of us are looking forward to walking up to door number three now?

Does it really bug me that people buy candy on Easter? Not that much. Even bunnies are cute and cuddly. If, however, anything at all can become more important to any of us than the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, then it's a travesty. If we don't see that it's because we've also been blinded to some degree by Satan's expert skill of deception.

The real kicker is, those of us who have already picked "door 3", those of us who have received God's Life through Christ may find ourselves unknowingly, or knowingly working in support of Satan's deceptions. No, it's not what we want to do, intend to do, or even think about.

We, simply don't take the time to honestly consider what's happening, and as a result we're probably not listening to what God has to say to us about what we're doing. Many of us who have considered these things just choose to be disobedient to God, because we don't want to be different than all those people around us. Why? Well, some people we care about and don't want to offend, but almost always we are concerned about what others may think of us.

It's a messy business any way we look at it. There's so much pressure within the traditions, rituals, and commercialization of God's gifts to the world that it can seem impossible to untangle ourselves from any of it.

Is it up to me to tell others what they should untangle from their living, or their family's ways? No. It's not my intent to share what people must stop doing. It is my task to raise up the importance of what God has done. To raise it high above anything that might distract us from God's glorious and eternal gifts of Love.

The birth of God's Son, the crucifixion of Jesus, and His resurrection from the dead thus becoming eternal Life are events that are light years beyond, and above comparison to anything this world has to offer. If these events are not visibly and audibly central to our celebration of them then at a minimum, we are robbing ourselves, our families and friends, and others in the world of the best God has for all of us.

It's wonderful to enjoy good food, watch the children open gifts, or run around looking for eggs of some type. When the celebration is done, if it should ever be done, what do the children take away with them in their hearts? Are we teaching them about our Lord in the way God desires of us?

Those questions are for each of us to consider prayerfully with Jesus, being taught by the Holy Spirit within the free-flowing Love of God. Never with anxiety, or fear of God. We are forgiven already in whatever way forgiveness is needed from God. "Thank you Jesus!"

Forgive me if any of this has caused offense. Still, it is my hope and prayer in Jesus that we are all willing to listen to the Lord openly, and honestly. No one must accept my words. They may, or may not hold anything that provides a teaching opportunity for the Holy Spirit. God, however, always has something for us because He loves us so much. God always gives us His eternal best! Please don't miss it.