

# “Believe the Good News”

Luke 24:1-11

Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

Just as it was for the disciples on Easter morning, those words seem like nonsense to the world around us. The Eleven remaining disciples had heard the words of Christ, had witnessed or heard about all of His miraculous signs. They had heard Him predict on numerous occasions that the Christ had to be lifted up on the cross, but in three days would rise from the dead. Nevertheless, the disciples dismissed these woman and their message of the resurrection because it was just too good to be true.

The disciples had a profound lack of understanding in regard to the Lord’s passion: His suffering and death; and their disbelief of the resurrection was equally great. The news of Christ’s death did not make sense – it wasn’t supposed to be that way. Great leaders don’t surrender and get executed. The news of His resurrection made even less sense. Dead men don’t get up and walk. But what about Lazarus? What about Jairus’ daughter and the boy at Nain? With Jesus, the dead do rise from the grave.

The same blindness that plagued the disciples has permeated the

hearts and minds of mankind ever since. The world has either ignored or dismissed this wonderful Good News of Christ's sacrifice to pay the ransom price for the sins of the world and His subsequent resurrection from the dead, ensuring God's faithful that just as He is risen from the dead, so shall we rise to live with Him through all eternity. The world and our sinful nature says: "It's nonsense;" "It's unbelievable;" Our sensibilities tell us that if something seems too good to be true, then it probably is too good to be true.

But God does not operate within the limitations of the reason and rationale of our feeble minds. In the beginning, God created a world in which perfect goodness and perfect truth were not only possible, but they were the intended reality of God's creating Word.

Of course, God's creation was spoiled by God's created son Adam and was turned from perfect goodness to total corruption. To fix the problems that ail the world, God promised to send His only-begotten Son. However, the vast majority of Adam's descendants said, "That's too good to be true." And they went their own way.

Christ was born of a virgin in Bethlehem, just as the prophets had foretold, but even most of the so-called "faithful" children of Israel had long since dismissed God's Word as a hope that was just too good to be true.

When Christ came preaching, teaching, and performing

miracles, some asked: “Could this be the Christ?” But on second thought, “No, that’s too good to be true.” Besides, “He is not the kind of Messiah we are looking for.”

We are now living in the final age. Christ has promised that He will return and all the faithful will join Him in His kingdom which has no end. Heaven and earth shall pass away, and a new heaven and a new earth will last for all eternity. How many people in our lives have dismissed these promises of God as being little more than a fairy tale which is “too good to be true”?

Like those women at the tomb on Easter morning, we have been presented with the greatest of all news: Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

With God, goodness and truth are not separated. They are not mutually exclusive. God and His Word are filled with both. Easter is a day filled with both goodness and truth. Christ offering Himself as the final sacrifice on the altar of the cross perfectly displayed God’s character. He is goodness personified.

In Christ rising from the dead and thereby fulfilling all of God’s promises made throughout the ages and all of His promises made to His disciples, He is revealed as the Author of truth and the only truth. There is only one truth that matters: Christ is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!! Amen.