



## PASTOR'S

# Perspective

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*I am come that they might  
have life and have it  
more abundantly.*

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I am willing to offer that if you are anything like me, Jelly Beans, Easter Egg Hunts, Easter Speeches, Easter Outfits and Easter Parades are all things that still remind you of Easter. They are indeed all familiar signs at this season of the year. In a not so distant time past we all remember these items as integral to the season of Easter. It was a time of anticipation, eagerness and anxiety. School was out, Spring Break was upon us and we were enthralled with the fact that summer couldn't be far off. How trivial we innocently made Easter in light of its powerful symbolism

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and significance. Indeed it is the most sacred time for Christians. While Advent, Christmas and Epiphany remind us that God moved His Son from the realm of glory to the mundane shores of earth, Easter reminds us that the move of God did have a purpose. God sent His only Son to give His life as a ransom for you and for me. In other words God sent His Son to earth for the sole purpose of dying.

It is amazing how our perspective changes when we think of Jesus operating under the purpose of death. He talked about His death and He planned for it. Everyday He lived under the aura of His approaching death. He was caught up in things beyond ordinary circumstance and realm. He even taught His disciples about the significance of His death and what it meant to them and us. Then, He was unflinching in its engagement. Jesus lived under the purpose and grip of death because He knew that His death was really unto life! You see His death was really for our life.

All of the emblems and harbingers that accompanied His movement and expressions said something to us about His death. Consider the Last Supper on His last night in a borrowed upper room; the trials and accusations; the kangaroo court appearances before men who were representatives of the state trying to mete out what they called 'justice' to one who was not even

of their world or this world for that matter; then the cross, that rustic symbol of a state which always found it easier to take a life than to figure out from where life had come and to whom it really belonged. While for the Romans the cross was a sign of cruel and heinous punishment reserved for the most incorrigible of criminals, Jesus made it an eternal symbol of the means to a life of redemption and hope. Then there was the empty tomb. What powerful sways in the realm of human incomprehension and mortality changed into the imperishable proofs of life beyond the grave! All because He really loved us then and loves us even now. This is the stuff of Resurrection. It is the wrapping on the gift that God has so freely given us. That gift is eternal life through the new and complete life found in the abundance which Jesus Christ came to make possible for us. It is a life redeemed, a life revived and a life resurrected. I hear Him still today, declaring "I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly." This is the message of Resurrection. Enjoy the Easter Egg Hunts, the Jelly Beans and all of the other commercial signs of Easter but feast in the message of the Resurrection through rejoicing in the abundant life which comes to us through the empty tomb and a Resurrected Savior!

*Happy Resurrection Day!*