



It's almost **Alleluia** time. And, aren't we more than ready for some **resurrection** time after being homebound for so long? **Resurrection** sounds pretty good, not only for Jesus but for all of us, too!

**Easter** is the most **important** festival in the Christian calendar. It celebrates God raising his son Jesus from the dead as well as the destruction of the power of sin and death forever. It symbolizes the opening of Heaven with the gift of **eternal life** to everyone who believes in Him.

Easter symbolizes the complete **verification** of all that Jesus preached and taught during His three-year ministry. Think about it. If Jesus 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.

- ❖ **EASTER MEANS...God cares about us as individuals.** God never loves in general. He loves each one of us as individuals. He knows every need we have, and he sent His only Son so that those needs could be met in Christ. That's what Jesus did when he was on earth, and that is what He still does today.
- ❖ **EASTER MEANS...Jesus cares for the one who's hurt!** Think of that. He cares even though a person has simply gotten what he or she deserves! Our Lord always cares when we hurt. He cares even if we're fighting against Him. It doesn't matter whether it's **physical** or **mental**; Jesus wants to take the hurting away...to restore us to a new wholeness and health in every part of our being.
- ❖ **EASTER MEANS...GOD CARES ABOUT PEOPLE WHO ARE ALONE.** He cares about our inner needs as well as the outward ones, about the feelings of isolation, of not belonging and loneliness we all experience at times. And He provides for them. Besides the comfort of earthly family and friends, He also gives us the encouragement of His Holy Word in Scripture.
- ❖ **EASTER MEANS...GOD HEALS BROKEN HEARTS!** Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus' most devoted disciples. She was one of the women who supported Jesus and His disciples throughout His ministry. She was the first one to see the empty tomb and the last to linger in the garden, crying and **brokenhearted**. Perhaps that was why Jesus appeared to her **first** before appearing to the rest of the disciples...because she needed special **comfort** and **reassurance**.

