**Notes**

**Upcoming in April 2018**

* **Friday April 6, 2018 @ 6:30 am**

“Soup for the soul” – Ladies Nite Out.

* **Sunday April 8, 2018 @ 10 am.**

“Overcoming the ‘giants’ in life”.

* **Tuesdays April 10, 2018 @ 7pm - 8:30pm. – 6 weeks**

Lectures: “The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit”

* **Saturday April 21, 2018 @ 8:30 am.**

 “Men of Valor “– Men’s Breakfast.

****April 1st. 2018**

  

**Easter 2018**

**“Total Foolishness**

**or**

**A stroke of Genius”**

Welcome

**Easter 2018**

**“Total Foolishness or A stroke of Genius”**

**2 sided coin**

*“The cross only makes sense when connected to the resurrection.”*

1. **The “total foolishness” side:**

 The Jews looked for a *“conquering king” from* the royal line of King David… so … the *“suffering servant”*  hanging on the cross didn’t make sense.

1. **The “stroke of genius” side:**

 Yet, God had an “ace” up His sleeve: ***The resurrection!***

The *“suffering servant”* would indeed become the *“conquering king”*

 His death (**and** resurrection) defeated death itself!

**The resurrection:**

The **1** thing that separates **Jesus** from the pack, is His **resurrection**.

Buddha / Mohammed / Confucius …

 All taught life principles: how to live in this world.

 All had disciples – devoted followers.

 All had ‘holy’ writings – ‘scriptures’.

But **none** rose from the dead, only Jesus.

**Jesus dealt a death blow to ‘shame’.**

**Hebrews 12:2**

*Looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is (now) seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Approx. 70% of the world lives in a shame & honor culture.

Since Adam & Eve, mankind has tried to hide from shame.

People often present an ‘image’ that they think people will accept.

 Their true identity & authenticity is stolen from them.

**Some sources of ‘shame’**

* Some physical issue others can see: scarring, blindness, leprosy.

 (Jesus identified & touched the blind lame & leprous).

* Abuse: sexual / emotional / physical / bullying @ school.
* Poverty: old clunker car, clothes, house.
* Family shame: father a drunk, divorce.
* Illegitimate birth, abortion.
* Legalism in church: shaming and thus control over people.

***Jesus life ministry and death confronted all forms of shame.***

Eg. The shame of being crucified naked on the cross outside the city on a public thoroughfare.

Yet although despised & rejected by men, He was accepted and vindicated by God through the resurrection.

Because Jesus now lives, we can face tomorrow without our shame, condemnation & guilt!

**X- tra note**

**The “Rush of Reason” re: the Resurrection**

1. There’s no scholarly historical dispute that Jesus was indeed dead as described.
2. Early reports of His resurrection come so quickly (within months) that you can’t write off the account as legend or a lie.
3. Even opponents of Jesus and His followers implicitly conceded that the tomb was empty.
4. 9 ancient sources (inside & outside the scriptures) confirm the disciples conviction that they had physically encountered the risen Jesus.
5. 7 other ancient sources confirm also that the disciples suffered deprivation and even death as a result of proclaiming Jesus’ resurrection.