



William J. Jackson, Grand Commander

Greetings Sir Knights,

April is here bringing with it Easter. So why do we celebrate Easter? It's so we can tell our children that rabbits poop out chocolate eggs and hide them all over the yard for them to find? This is Easter, right?

WRONG!

Oh, I must mean the religious Easter where Christ died on the cross, arose from the dead on the third day, and assented into heaven.

NOT SO QUICK!

God did send his only begotten son to die for our sins and that whomsoever believes in him shall not die, but have everlasting life. But before God could forgive our sins, He had to have a substantial sin offering. A simple spring lamb or a burned bull carcass was not going to suffice. This required a Lamb without blemish. A Man without sin. Enter Jesus Christ! The only sacrifice suitable to God. So the Jews accused him of blasphemy, Pilate spanked him, and nailed him to cross, right?

NOT SO FAST!

Yes, the High Priest accused him, but first he was isolated by everyone. He prayed, but there was no answer from God. His own men could not stay awake and keep vigil with Him, and when one did arrive and kissed Him on the cheek, it was only to betray him to the temple guards for 30 pieces of silver.

THAT'S TRULY ALONE!

He is then taken before Pilate in this frame of mind and Pilate has him scourged. That doesn't sound so bad, does it.

WRONG!!!

Scourging is a polite way of saying they beat the living daylight out of Him. They remove the garments so they don't get ripped. They took a cat of nine tails, a hideous whip with 9 leather tendrils each imbedded with razor sharp pieces of metal and hooks in it. It cut through skin, muscle, and bone. They

leave the recipient a carved up bloody mess. Pilate tried to give Him back to the Jews but they had Pilate release a murder instead and crucify Jesus. They then took Jesus whom they had just about scourged to death, put a crown of thorns on him, beat Him and mocked Him and compelled him to carry His cross till He could go no further. Then they compelled Simone of Cyrene to carry it the rest of the way. Then they just nailed Him to the cross and He died, right?

NOT SO FAST

Yes, they tied His arms and legs out on the cross and then drove large spikes in his hands and feet. This merely keeps Him in place. They then set the cross up and allow time, gravity, and physiology to take its course. It's a slow agonizing death. The lungs can't expand and blood pools in the legs and abdomen keeping it away from the heart and lungs. Jesus dies. Just to make sure, one of the soldiers on guard drove a spear into his side, piercing the heart. So they took Him down; his followers put Him in a borrowed tomb and on Easter morning when they rolled back the stone He was gone, right?

NOT SO FAST!

The burial shroud had been placed on him and was still in the tomb. This is the fabled shroud of Turin which has been studied quite heavily over the centuries. It holds a negative x-ray image of the body of Christ. People originally felt it was a trick and that the image was painted on but science has proved that not to be the case. A bright light came forth out of that tomb either from God or Jesus himself. It made that image and it reanimated Jesus. So yes He has risen! He has risen indeed! He paid a very high price to redeem our souls. Let's not trivialize Easter. Let us obey his commandment and love each other as He loved us.

I would like to remind all Sir Knights to view the virtual Easter Celebration from the Grand Encampment and the one being put on by Sir Knight Larry Carte for the Grand Commandry.

Courteously,

William J. Jackson,

Grand Commander

You can find this and previous inserts, as well as previous editions of the Knight Templar Magazine at <http://www.knightstemplar.org/KTnews>.

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