

## Living Fruitfully

‘One Easter, a father was teaching his son to drive, when out of nowhere, a rabbit jumped onto the road. Slamming on the brakes, the son said, “I nearly ruined Easter! I almost ran over the Easter Bunny”. His father replied, “It’s okay son—you missed it by a hare”.’ // Speaking of “hairs”, and missing something just “by a hair”, how many people do you think are worried about missing Heaven, by a “hair”? Take a look at this “security gate” at Heaven. Unlike America’s recent experiment with wide-open borders, it seems that Heaven indeed has strict border controls ...

### ***["Goodometer" video]***

I hope you didn’t see anyone there that you could identify with! But so very sadly, the mindset of far too many Americans who otherwise claim they are Christians, is exactly the same as all those rejected at Heaven’s gate. Turns out they are illegal immigrants, but because of Heaven’s tight security, they never actually get in. But it’s not just them. It turns out that no one, absolutely no one, can get in to Heaven by themselves. No one is good enough! As we’ve seen before, if we sin even just one tiny, little time, we doomed! Even if we live “perfectly” all the rest of our lives, none of that 99.9999% of our lives can “balance out” that one tiny, stinking, little sin. One slip up in life and we’ve

missed Heaven, not even by a “hair”, but by thousands and thousands of miles. We were never even close. Our self-determined destination, is hell in a hand basket. For all of us. Worst of all, some of our fellow citizens, many of whom think they’re “democrats”, are bound and determined to get to hell as quickly as possible, mistakenly thinking that they’ll finally be “free” to live exactly as they want there, with no one, no busybodies, no “holier-than-thou” people there to offend them and be judgmental toward them. Tragically, they have lied so much that they no longer can even recognize truth. Sometimes, I think that instead of opposing them, we should just let them have their way, all the way, which will lead inevitably to “hanging themselves by their own ropes”, all the while thinking they’re doing what’s best for them, and best for the planet. “Assisted suicide” anyone? Murder? How deranged can people get and still be convinced that they’re doing good?

Those of us who are evangelical Christians, that is, who believe and know that the Holy Bible, every last word, dot and tittle, is absolutely and totally true, will necessarily choose what is life and good and beautiful. We will choose to give our lives over to Him Who died on the cross and overcame death on the third day. We will gladly die to ourselves in order that we may live in Christ Jesus. For we know, clearly in our right and sound minds, that the way to everlasting blissful, perfect life in Heaven can be obtained only through the unique and single, exclusive way, the Person Who announced to all the world and universe, that He is

the way, the truth and the life. There is no other way to Heaven except through Him.

When our Lord Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, His spirit was already weighed down with impending dread. For He knew what was shortly to come upon Him—the sin of all mankind, of all time and place. After the supper, He led them all to the Garden of Gethsemane, which was His favorite place to get away and pray. That Garden remains there on the Mount of Olives to this day. Some of the olive trees we walked by there were alive in the Garden when Lord Jesus went to pray there that very night. We actually walked where Lord Jesus walked! But it was here that the work, the redemption of human kind was accomplished. The anguish our Lord went through as He prayed, as the full, crushing weight of the obscene hideousness of all our sin, fell upon Him. He prayed, and with His body stressed beyond what any other human has ever experienced, He sweat blood, and wept tears. He was transformed, as it were, from sinless Son of God to sin-gorged Son of Man, and the separation from God and Heaven was complete. All that was left was to go to the cross and die. In a way, dying was the “easy” part! The hard part was all achieved in the Garden. So crushing it was upon Him, that an angel was sent to give strength to His body so that He could carry on, to complete the assignment to die on the cross.

For He was a seed, *the* seed, of the New Man, the new Adam. When a seed is planted, it dies, but from within its death,

arises a stalk of wheat, or other grain or flower. And out of that one seed arises thousands and thousands of “offspring” that look nothing like the original seed’s form. Christ died, so that millions and billions of new human fruit would arise. And we’re among them. Our own lives, as “little” Christs, Christians, are to follow His example. For as we give our lives to Him, our old selves die, and we are born again, born anew, born from above, born from Heaven, born of Holy Spirit, and live new lives in Him. While we still physically live on this earth, we’re to be fruitful. We’re to live our lives so that we contribute to the great harvest, that more and more people will be saved, and not perish, and not go the broadway to hell. For after His death on the cross, three days later, Christ Jesus arose to new life, defeating death once and for all! And so shall we also live forever, after we die. The greatest exchange, the greatest “bargain” of all time! Lord Jesus has overcome—forever! Today of all days is the single most important and joyous day to open our mouths and sing. Join with me and sing this anthem by Kari Jobe, celebrating the Lord’s resurrection.

### ***["Forever"]***

There is no doubt. Jesus Christ rose from the dead. No other fact in all history is as well attested. The evidence is irrefutable. It is absolutely bankable. Only He is worthy of all praise, thanksgiving and glory. So raise your voices in Hallelujahs, and sing again as we do every year, in worship of Him!

### ***["Easter Song"]***

