

LIFE

The following is a story from my homeland of Minnesota. Two fellows that I went to high school with were out on a frozen Minnesota lake, near our hometown, doing some ice fishing. It's an activity I never understood but that may be because I have a fear of falling through to my icy death. That aside, I don't fault others for participating in this "foolish" activity. In any case, after spending the day on the ice, the fellows decided to head back as a snow storm was rapidly approaching. They loaded up their truck and off they went. Soon they found themselves in white-out conditions; no longer able to see the make-shift road on the ice. Eventually, even the lights on the shore disappeared amid the darkness and heavy snow. The fellows eventually decided to stop and wait out the storm. They ended up spending the night in their truck out on that frozen lake. When they woke up the next morning, what they saw scared them; open water 20 yards or so ahead of them. Had they kept driving the night before, they would have most certainly plummeted to their icy death. This is reason number one why I don't go out on frozen body of water. All joking aside, many people today are going through life without any thought of the certain death they are heading toward.

And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. [Mark 16:4-6]

Easter was last Sunday. The refrain, "**He has risen!**" was joyfully repeated in many churches around the world. Who has risen? Jesus of course. Why does this matter? Jesus' resurrection means life for those who receive him as Lord and Savior. You see, because of our sin, all people are heading toward a certain death. Not just death, though, but an eternal death in eternal torment. That is the curse that was incurred; a curse we truly deserve. The Good News is that God is madly in love with you and therefore God put into motion His plan to redeem creation through Jesus Christ; to save you from certain eternal death. Jesus died on the cross and then on the third day, he rose from the grave, all FOR YOU.

If you do not know Jesus, I pray that you STOP and open your eyes. See the death that is before you. Now, look to the cross and see the Life that is offered to you. Easter was last Sunday but the Good News of Easter is for every single day of your life and beyond. All praise be to God our Father through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.