Sermon Questions

Easter 2018: Easter Morning and the Destruction of Death

Selected texts

1. Paul told us that the “preaching of the cross is foolishness to Greeks” and a “stumbling block to Jews”. What did he mean by that? Is the preaching of the cross still foolishness today? Why or why not?

2. Anselm, one of our Early Church Fathers, answered the question of the necessity of the cross like this: **You have not yet considered the weight of humanity’s sin if you think that God can simply forgive by speaking it. The only way for God to forgive sin is to enter into it himself and overcome it from the inside.** Do you agree with Anselm’s statement? Are you puzzled by it? Can you think of any scriptural references that might support his statement?

Concluding thoughts on Easter:

1. **Easter morning forces us to rethink what we believe about order and violence.**  How so? How does Jesus’ post resurrection appearances communicate “Peace” rather than retribution?
2. **Easter is God’s final declaration of the goodness of his material creation.**  Why is this so? Why was a physical/bodily resurrection of Jesus necessary? Wouldn’t it have been sufficient for Jesus’ spirit to live on after death?
3. **The whole story of Easter weekend opens up the way of hope to everybody.**  Provide some biblical examples of this.